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SICILY AND ITS ISLANDS.

Map OF SICILY.

13° 14° East Longitude from Greenwich 15°

38° 37°

Cape St. Vito · Cape Coffano · Trapani · Mount St. Julian · Castell'a Mare · Marsala · Cape Granitola · Cape St. Marco · Cape Bianco · Seculiana · Girgenti · Site of Agrigentum · Cape Scalambra · Cape Passaro

GULF OF CASTELL'A MARE · GULF OF PALERMO · GULF OF PATTI · GULF OF CATANIA

P. Illano Morto · P. Rama · Femina Pt. · C. di Gallo · PALERMO · S. Martino · Monreale · C. Zafferana · Cefalù · P. Rasigarbi · Termini · Campo Felici · Graterri · Pollina · Mistretta · Caronia · San Marco · Cape Orlando · C. Calava · Milazzo · Messina · Faro Light · Ilriso · Limeri · St. Lucia · Galati R. · Faglari · Forza · Apro R. · Pt. S. Alessio · Maio · Francavilla · Randazzo · Taormina · Castiglione · Piedemonte · Linguaglossa · Maletto · L. Gurrida · Traina · Bronte · MOUNT Great Crater ÆTNA · Nicosia · Minardo · Aderno · Bianca Villa · Centorbi · Leonforte · Trachino R. · S. Filippo d'Argimo · Calatascibetta · Castro Giovanni · Aidone · Piazza · Paternò · Belpasco · Pedaro · Nicolosi · Viagrande · Aci Reale · Acireale · Riposto · Milo · Giarre · Mascali · Misterbianco · Catania · Lentini · Carlentini · Augusta · Cape Santa Croce · Magnisi Peninsula · C. Panagia · Syracuse · C. Morro di Porco · Port. Lagnini · Pt. Negro · Avola · Noto · Modica · Scicli · Spaccaforno · Pozzallo · Pachino · S. Rosalini · Marzamemi · Terranobile · Cape Passaro · Vizini · Mineo · Caltagirone · Palma · Naro · Alicata · Terra Nova · Sciacca · Castro Novo · Corleone · Salemi · Mazzara · Calatavuturo · Suterra · S. Giovanni · S. Blasi · Sambucca · Peagio Reale · Milena · Monreale · Carini · Capaci · Isola delle Femine · Formello · Favignana · Levanzo · Marittimo

R. Salem or Belice · R. Delia · R. Machaluba · R. Belici · R. Carabi · R. Calatabellotta · R. Platani · R. delle Canne · R. Naro · R. Caltabellotta · R. Sosio · R. Salso · R. Imera Meridionale or Southern Himera · R. Imera Settentrionale or Northern Himera · R. Torto · R. Grande · R. Leonardo · R. Eleuterio · R. Oreto · R. Milicia · R. Fiumedinisi · R. Furiano · R. Agrò · R. Nisi · R. Naso · R. Fitalia · R. Tyndaris · R. Patti · R. Castro · R. Mazzaro · R. Alcantara · R. Adrano · R. Simeto or Guarnera R. · R. Dittaino · R. Gerbi · R. Chrisas · R. Dirillo · R. Ballata · R. Cassibili · R. Anapus · R. Abisaro · R. Busaitano · R. Polichino · R. Terranobile · Torrente Pt. Abel · Torrente Pt. Calabrese · Torrente Pt. Lupo · Torrente Pt. Cavallo · Torrente Pt. Cavallaro · Torrente Pt. Cavallazzo · Torrente Pt. Cavallotto · Torrente Pt. Cavallotto · Torrente Pt. Cavallotto

73030

MEMOIR

DESCRIPTIVE OF THE

RESOURCES, INHABITANTS, AND HYDROGRAPHY,

OF

SICILY AND ITS ISLANDS,

INTERSPERSED WITH

ANTIQUARIAN AND OTHER NOTICES.

BY CAPTAIN WILLIAM HENRY SMYTH, R.N., K.S.F.,

FELLOW OF THE ASTRONOMICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETIES OF LONDON.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY,

AND INTENDED TO ACCOMPANY

THE ATLAS OF SICILY, PUBLISHED AT THEIR OFFICE.

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS

FOR EXECUTING THE OFFICE OF

LORD HIGH ADMIRAL,

&c. &c. &c.,

THIS MEMOIR, DESCRIPTIVE AND EXPLANATORY OF A SURVEY OF SICILY,
EXECUTED, UNDER THEIR LORDSHIPS' DIRECTIONS AND ENCOURAGING PATRONAGE,
DURING THE YEARS 1814, 1815, AND 1816,
IS MOST GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THEIR LORDSHIPS'

MOST OBEDIENT

AND HUMBLE SERVANT,

W. H. SMYTH.

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CYPERUS PAPYRUS.

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ERRATA.

Page 49, line 7 from top, for " filthy," read " fescenine."
—— 72, line 10 from bottom, for " the independance," read " himself independent."
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—— 174, line 7 from top, for " helpless Hamilco," read " hapless Himilco."
—— 176, line 2 from top, for " Pothumius," read " Posthumius."
—— 211, line 6 from top, for " Gods," read " God."
—— 220, line 12 from bottom, for " Beldel," read " Bled el."
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INTRODUCTION.

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having determined in their laudable zeal for promoting Nautical Science, to present to the Public an Atlas containing my Survey of Sicily and the adjacent Islands, I obtained permission from their Lordships to publish the following Memoir, containing the substance of those remarks, which my long residence in those parts, and the station I filled, enabled me to make, and, as an encouragement, their Lordships, with a marked liberality and condescension, have been pleased to subscribe for one hundred copies. In executing this task, I have rather aimed at giving general information, than a mere set of sailing directions, because the Charts being constructed trigonometrically, and the various dangers distinctly pointed out, an inspection of them will be less liable to misconception than verbose instructions.

The Survey of Sicily was ordered to be made in consequence of repeated representations, from various quarters, of the very defective state of the Charts of the Mediterranean Sea, and particularly of the central parts, of which Captain Hurd, the able Hydrographer to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, thus remarked:—

"Our knowledge of the coasts and neighbourhood of Sicily is "extremely deficient; and although there are the three Observatories "of Palermo, Naples, and Malta, the exact position of either is "undetermined. We are also unacquainted with the true place of the "important land-fall Maritimo, which we are assured, by experienced "officers, is placed in the Charts twenty miles too far to the west-"ward; and Cape Bon, on the African shore, six or seven too much

" to the eastward :—this, if true, constitutes a most serious error, as " the Esquirques, Keith's Reef, and various other dangers, at present " scarcely known, lie in the fair-way, and nearly mid-channel between " the Sicilian and African shores.

" All the Charts of Sicily, that I have examined, are at variance " with each other; and, from our having no good authority for either, " we are at a loss which to select as the best: but there are many " reasons for supposing a portion has been placed by a compass north, " without allowing for variation, and the adjoining parts by a true " one;—nor have we any particular plans to be depended on.

" The Æolian group, Pantellaria, Ustica, and Lampedusa, with " several smaller islands, are not properly placed in any of the pub- " lished Charts, and very little is yet known as to their history, exact " number, or relative positions with each other; and there are some " shoals supposed to exist on the southern and western coasts of " Sicily, which it would be praise-worthy to search for, as many " unaccountable losses and disappearance of vessels have taken place, " at various times, in those parts."

My appointment to a command in the Flotilla of Sicily, during the time of our military occupation of the fortresses, afforded me many local advantages for the performance of the duties which were intrusted to me. I was unable, from the subsequent political changes, to execute the design I had projected, of cutting a meridian through the island, and measuring a permanent base-line for the final determination of its true position, extent, and form. This, exclusive of the advantage of giving a grand trigonometrical survey from which to compute the relative situations of all the adjacent coasts, would afford considerable elucidation of the theory of the true figure of the earth, by comparing this operation with the results of the mathematical labours carried on in Caffraria.

Being obliged, therefore, to resort to a secondary process, the survey was executed on a chronometric basis, connected with geo-

detical operations. The utmost precision was used in laying down the astronomical data, and the refraction of the heavenly bodies was corrected to the existing state of the atmosphere at the periods of observation. The whole was grounded upon the position of the Observatory at Palermo, as settled and communicated to me, by my excellent friend, the Abbate Piazzi, to be 38° 06′ 44″ latitude north, 13° 20′ 15″ longitude east of Greenwich, and 51° 53′ 16″ elevation of the equator.

A minute detail of these operations is unnecessary in the present Work, as I intend hereafter to include it in a more extended survey of the Mediterranean. As an estimate of the comparative resources at my disposal, it may be proper to state, in the mean time, that my instruments consisted of three chronometers, a portable transit instrument, a reflecting and two achromatic telescopes, a micrometer, a seven-inch and a five-inch theodolite, a reflecting circle, a nine-inch quintant on a stand with counterpoises, and a sextant; with an artificial horizon, two barometers, a large protractor with spring points, and several minor articles.

In each of the charts, plans, and views, I have endeavoured to express the hydrography, fortifications, and topography, with as much detail as the nature of a service, limited in time, would admit. I have inserted no more soundings than I considered necessary, and these are expressed in English fathoms, or fractional parts of fathoms; a method I think much less likely to create mistakes, than that usually adopted of marking the shallow water in feet. It should be remembered, that the true meridian is invariably used; whilst, in the descriptive part, the magnetic variation is allowed for in the direction of winds and tides, as well as on the bearings of places.

As the Atlas, which is the result of my surveys, is frequently referred to in the course of this work, it seems proper to apprize the reader that it contains the charts, plans, and views of sea-port towns, and remarkable capes and headlands, and though executed by the

Lords of the Admiralty, may by their permission, be obtained from Mr. Murray, the publisher of this work. The plates in this book have been engraved by my friend Mr. Daniell, R.A., whose views and picturesque scenery in India have established his reputation.

I trust the occasional references to many of the bad customs, too prevalent in Sicily, will not be indiscriminately applied; for, though it was never my intention to expose the foibles of individuals, or dilate upon personal adventures, I could not, in treating of the country, altogether omit noticing subjects that so forcibly obtruded themselves upon my observation. In support of my opinions, I could very easily have related numberless anecdotes that might be amusing enough to many; but I think the liberal reader will admit there would be a degree of cruelty in dragging forth, and exposing to view, those whose failings became known to me only through their hospitality and confidence.

In describing the coasts and towns, I have endeavoured to be as concise as possible, there being such numerous books of travels already extant, as to leave but little to be added;

> For here the Muse so oft her harp has strung,
> That not a mountain rears its head unsung;
> Renown'd in verse each shady thicket grows,
> And ev'ry stream in heav'nly numbers flows.
>
> ADDISON'S *Letter from Italy*.

His Majesty's Ship ADVENTURE, *off Tripoli*,
October 1*st*, 1821.

SICILY AND ITS ISLANDS.

CHAPTER I.

Preliminary Matters relative to the Geology, Mineralogy, Climate, Produce, and Resources of Sicily.

SICILY is so endeared by classical, historical, and scientific associations, that its very name inspires a romantic prepossession, nor is it the *magni nominis umbra* usually imagined, being the largest, and still the richest and most civilized of all the islands in the Mediterranean Sea. From its favourable geographical situation, mild climate, and great fertility; from its strong military positions, secure harbours, and innumerable resources, it has ever been an object of eager contention, and must always continue to be the scene of political struggles and important events.

GEOLOGY.—From many peculiarities observable in the stratification and direction of its mountains, it has been inferred that Sicily was once joined to the Continent, and that it was separated by some dreadful convulsion of nature, beyond the reach of history or tradition: and, as some suppose, before the craters of Stromboli, Ætna, Vesuvius, and Lipari, gave vent to the subterraneous fires. The whole of Sicily, its adjacent islands, and the south of Italy,

being still subject to frequent and destructive earthquakes, and other volcanic phenomena, adds much to the probability of the supposed ancient connexion between the Apennine and Neptunian ranges.

Next to Ætna, the principal mountains of Sicily are the Madonia and Pelorean or Neptunian ranges, forming the north and north-eastern coasts, and from thence gradually shelving down to the south-west part of the island, with inferior chains diverging in various ramifications. These are of a primitive formation, more or less covered with a calcareous stratum, intermixed with pyrites, schistus, talc, and marine deposits, and abounding with mineral riches, and organic remains.

The soil affords great variety, being loamy, argillaceous, alumi-nous, siliceous, or calcareous; and of considerable depth. By the genial influence of the climate, vegetation is rendered quick and abundant, and the country is altogether one of the most productive spots on earth.

This fecundity may also be owing, in part, to a volcanic influence, for lava, scoriæ, and ashes, are not confined to the neighbourhood of Ætna, but extend from that mountain to Cape Passaro. Masses of pozzolana occur at Lentini, Vizzini, Palazzolo, and Palica; and various substances, that have also evidently undergone the action of fire, are observable in several parts of the interior, where the superincumbent strata have been riven by torrents. The central divisions of the island contain large tracts of bitumen, and though sulphur is rather a cause than a product of volcanoes, it may be noticed, that it is found in immense quantities at Mussumeli, Cattolica, Girgenti, Naro, Mazzarino, and Alicata.

Mineralogy.—In the neighbourhood of Regalmuto, Fiume di Nisi, Caccamo, Savoca, and San Giuseppe, are found silver, lead, copper, cinnabar, marcasite, emery, and antimony. Auriferous pyrites, lapis

lazuli, mercury, alum, and coal, similar to that from Bovey, in Devonshire, abound in the hills and valleys of Nicosia, Alì, Tortorici, and Messina. Rock-salt, bitumen, and gypsum, particularly the latter, abound at Castro-Giovanni, Mistretta, Caltanisetta, Ragusa, and other places; while marbles, agates, chalcedonies, and jaspers of great variety, occur at Palermo, Gagliano, Busacchino, Cappizzi, Naso, Taormina, and many other parts, intermixed with asbestos, asphaltum, a saponaceous stone consisting principally of argil, possessing strong detergent qualities, and alabaster; and specimens of ostracites, echinites, cardites, and various other organic, dendritic, and amorphous remains, are frequently found imbedded in the calcareous strata.

Petroleum and naphtha are found on the surface of several springs at Palagonia, Petralia, Girgenti, Leonforte, Bivona, Caltanisetta, and Segesta. Amber is found in small quantities, washed up by the sea at the mouth of the river Giarretta. Around Ragusa, in the county of Modica, there abounds, moreover, a bituminous rock, used for building-stone, that produces a great proportion of hydrogen gas, far better for ignition than that extracted from coal.

Mineral waters, both hot and cold, abound in every part of Sicily, and have for ages been celebrated for their efficacy in relieving various chronic, paralytic, and cutaneous disorders. Of these the sulphureous are to be met with at Ali, Cefalù, Sciacca, Termini, Segesta, and Mazzarino; the ferruginous at St. Vito, Noto, Messina, Sclafani, and Mazzara; and the vitriolic at Palermo, Corleone, Gianissileri, Petralia, Gratteri, and Bissuna.

Climate.—The temperature of the climate may be pronounced excellent, except that from there being few running streams, many morasses and pools of stagnant water are formed, the effluvias of which corrupt the air around, and render it unhealthy. The medium height of the thermometer is 62°.5, of the barometer 29°.80, and of the pluviometer twenty-six inches. The thermometer

in the hottest days rises as high as 90° or 92°, and very seldom falls lower than 36°, even in the depth of winter. The highest barometrical index I have observed in very severe weather, and light westerly airs, was 30°.47; and the lowest, in gloomy weather and south-east gales, 29°.13. In the year 1814 there were one hundred and twenty-one overcast and cloudy days, on eighty-three of which rain fell; thirty-six misty days; and one hundred and fifty-nine fine bright days.

Whilst the sun is in the northern signs, the sky, although it seldom assumes the deep blue tint of the tropics, is, nevertheless, beautifully clear and serene; but after the autumnal equinox, the winds become boisterous, and the atmosphere hazy and dense; the dews and fogs increase, particularly on the coasts, and the rain falls in frequent and heavy showers.

In summer it is generally calm early in the morning, but a breeze springs up about nine or ten o'clock, freshens until two or three, and gradually subsides again into a calm towards evening. The winds are variable both in their force and their direction. The most prevalent are the northerly and westerly, which are dry and salubrious, producing, with the clearest sky, the most refreshing sensations. Those from the east round to southerly are heavy, and loaded with an unwholesome mist, often accompanied with heavy rain, thunder, and lightning, during which the luminous meteor, called by seamen *compasant*, (a corruption of Corpo Santo) is sometimes seen, and hailed with similar ideas to those which inspired the ancients on the appearance of their Castor and Pollux.

About the time of the vernal equinox, the force of the south-west wind is very sensibly felt along the shores of Trapani, Marsala, Mazzara, and Girgenti; but as the sun advances the winds blow more from the northward, with fresh gales at intervals, which, however, are seldom experienced with violence in bays or harbours, and their power rarely continues longer than forty hours. The most experienced

pilots say, that storms which commence in the day-time are more violent, and of longer duration than those which spring up during the night.

The most annoying wind is the sirocco or south-east, which coming from the deserts of Africa, is moderated by its passage over the sea, to a tolerable degree of temperature; and on the east coast, where it first arrives, its effects are inconsiderable; but seeming to acquire additional heat in its progress over the land, becomes a serious inconvenience as it advances. At its commencement the air is dense and hazy, with long white clouds settling a little below the summits of the mountains, and at sea floating just above the horizon, in a direction parallel to it. The thermometer does not, at first, experience a very sensible change, though it rises with the continuance of the wind to 90° and 95°, which last is the highest I have observed, though the feelings seem to indicate a much higher temperature; but the hygrometer shews increased atmospheric humidity; and the barometer gradually sinks to about 29°.60. The sirocco generally continues three or four days, during which period such is its influence, that wine cannot be fined, or meat effectually salted; oil paint, laid on whilst it continues, will seldom harden, but dough can be raised with half the usual quantity of leaven, and though blighting in its general effects in summer, it is favourable to the growth of several useful plants in winter. This wind is peculiarly disagreeable at Palermo, a city situated in a plain in the north-west part of the island, surrounded on the land side by mountains, which collect the solar rays as if to a focus. Although inured to the heat of the East and West Indies, and the sands of Arabia and Africa, I always felt, during a sirocco, more incommoded by an oppressive dejection and lassitude than in those countries. At such times the streets are silent and deserted, for the natives can scarcely be prevailed on to move out while it lasts, and they carefully close every window and door of their houses, to exclude it. Notwithstanding

it possesses so unpleasant and relaxing a quality, and may be troublesome to people of a plethoric habit, yet I believe no danger or contagion is to be apprehended from it. In spring and autumn, it is more frequent than in summer; and in winter possesses no disagreeable qualities, except to invalids.

Waterspouts, and various singular meteoric phenomena, occur. Among the latter, on a warm, cloudy, hazy day, the 14th of March, 1814, it began to rain in large drops, that appeared muddy, and they deposited a very minute sand of a yellowish-red colour. The wind, on the day before, had been blowing strongly from the south-south-west to the north-east, and during the time the rain fell was from the south-west, which leads to a supposition that it was transported from the deserts of Africa, though the first impression on the minds of the people in Messina, was, that an eruption of Mount Ætna had occurred. The thermometer at noon on that day was $63\frac{1}{4}°$, and the barometer 29°.43.

Sicily has ever been subject to alarming and desolating earthquakes, of which it is remarkable that thirteen of the most destructive on record have occurred, though in different years, between the 10th of January and the 28th of March. These appalling visitations usually happen after heavy rains, and may be owing to the pores of the earth being thereby closed, and preventing the escape of subterraneous vapour, or possibly to the excessive humidity causing a decomposition of certain strata of pyrites and sulphur. Earthquakes are undulatory or concussive in their motion, and those I have particularly noticed were generally preceded by a peculiar density of the atmosphere, the winds were variable, and the waters turbid. They however frequently happen also in fine weather, when nothing remarkable is indicated by the eudiometric instruments. I have more than once experienced their effect on board a ship, and from the sudden electric nature of the shock could scarcely believe that we had not struck upon an unknown shoal.

The country sometimes labours under a drought from April to September, to the serious detriment of the harvest and vintage, particularly in the interior where the atmosphere is less humid than on the coasts. There are a few showers in autumn, but the regular rains do not usually commence until November, between which month and March, besides occasional snow-storms, they fall, at different periods in very heavy torrents, often accompanied with vivid and very dangerous lightning. During this season, therefore, the effects of cold and humidity are very sensibly experienced, owing, in a great measure, to the principle on which their comfortless houses are constructed, for scarcely one of their numerous doors or windows shuts properly, so that there are strong draughts of air in every direction. The apartments are large and scantily furnished, lofty, vaulted in groins from the corners; the floors are paved with stone, tiles, or a kind of rubble-work, and there is no fire except a few charcoal embers in a metal dish called a brasiera, exactly after the manner of the ancient Romans. Some may imagine that the climate requires no other, but no one can think that the social comforts of a good fire and a snug room would be unacceptable, who has witnessed the cheerless and gloomy winter evenings of a Sicilian family in the country.

The violent rains that deluge the island at this season swell the rivers, damage the roads, and set the Fiumare running; these are torrents, occasioned by the waters descending from the mountains, into deep ravines, through which they rush with impetuosity to the sea, carrying every thing before them. Their strength, however, soon exhausts itself; and when dry, their channels become tolerable roads to the distance of three or four miles inland, exhibiting peculiar picturesque beauties. The boisterous force of the Fiumare while flowing, the badness of the roads, and the want of bridges, render travelling in the winter dangerous, and at times wholly impracticable.

Travelling in Sicily is by no means an easy undertaking at any season; the mode of proceeding being either on mules, or on horseback, but more generally in a lettiga, (a corruption of lectica,) a kind of narrow chaise, with room for two persons to sit opposite to each other, mounted on two long poles, and carried by mules at the average rate of three miles and a half an hour. The tourist should be prepared to fare coarsely in the cheerless inns of the island, where miserable beds, bad wine, dirty cookery, and inconveniences of every kind, are unavoidable, and the only remedy for a valetudinarian is to be provided with a servant who can cook, and a spare mule for carrying bedding, coffee, tea, sugar, wine, and other necessaries, for none of these will be found on the road. The inns called Fondaco, are baronial property, and farmed more for the purpose of accommodating beasts of burthen and their drivers, (who, from there being no inland navigation, and no roads for wheel carriages, are extremely numerous,) than for the reception of a higher description of travellers. The latter, however, after lodging their animals, can generally procure a shelter, though often a wretched one, in some neighbouring convent, which is the principal reason that the improvement of the inns is neglected.

In the towns a distinction is made between a locanda and a fondaco, the former being more deserving the name of an inn; and in the cities the best inns are dignified with the still superior epithet of Albergo.

People generally travel with one or two campieri or guards, who are well armed, and may make themselves useful as guides; but they are often very troublesome, and the fear they, in common with all Sicilians, entertain of rain and of wetting their feet, occasion frequent delays and interruptions on the road.

Inexperienced travellers expect no cold weather in Sicily, in which, however, they will find themselves greatly mistaken, though the severity of the winter is not such as to deprive the country of

TRAVELLING IN SICILY.

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that pleasing aspect, which it derives from the variety of evergreens richly spread over it. Of these, the most conspicuous are the lemon and the orange trees, loaded with their golden fruit. The cold lasts but a short period; for the spring quickly advances, and a profusion of verdure is displayed around. This is the pleasing season that renders the island so delightful, and has drawn forth so many poetic strains in celebration of its charms. The summer is oppressively warm, and precludes the exercises necessary for health; whilst the heat scorches up the vegetation, and engenders innumerable reptiles and insects. Then the autumn arrives; when a few showers, and some variable weather, occasion disease in debilitated constitutions, under various symptoms, but chiefly under those of acute inflammations.

The evil to be most dreaded at this time of the year is the mal' aria, or bad air, probably the solstitial disease of the ancient Romans; a kind of less inveterate yellow fever, usually beginning in June, and increasing in virulence till after the first rains in September, and probably arising from the excess of moisture hastening the production of putrid fermentation in decayed vegetable substances. It is generally found on the banks of rivers, near stagnant pools, on the borders of the numerous fiumare, and in low or marshy plains, where it is greatly promoted by the culture of rice, flax, and all those productions that require copious irrigation. This deleterious air sometimes reaches high lands, but rarely except in instances where there are higher in the vicinity. Its effects have been so accurately observed, that the precise extent of its influence is now tolerably well ascertained in most parts of the island, and may therefore be avoided by a careful tourist, especially as the smell and atmospheric density of the miasma assist in detecting it, when it prevails with the greatest intensity, though it is sometimes also deleterious when the indications of its presence are not perceptible. The subtle vapour acts on the constitution chiefly in the night, and during sleep, with an effect more fatal to foreigners than to the natives;

the patient becomes drowsy and feverish, feels a severe head-ach, assumes a pallid aspect, and wastes rapidly, until a dropsy terminates a painful existence, or leaves him an invalid for the rest of his life.

The goitre, an excrescence in the throat, prevalent in some districts of Sicily, has been also attributed to the effects of mal' aria; but, I believe, from prejudice, rather than from authority.

Aspect.—The appearance of the coasts of the island is romantic, and formed, by nature, into strong positions of defence; while the interior presents a combination of mountains, ravines, and valleys, the latter of which, in many parts, branch out into extensive plains, presenting a pleasing assemblage of rural scenes, possessing a soil exuberantly fertile, and animated by numerous flocks and herds scattered around. The hilly regions presenting, alternately, undulating slopes, bold crags, and rugged elevations, with woody declivities abounding with elms, chestnuts, pines, oaks, ash, and other timber, complete the prospect. The most extensive woods are those of Mount Ætna, Gibel-Manna, Caronia, Traina, Noto, Biscari, and Corleone.

The horses are descended from those of Barbary, but are not very good. The mules are strong and handsome, and the great utility of these animals induces the Sicilians to procure the finest asses possible, to breed from; but the gimerro, a monster between a horse and a cow, or a bull and a mare, though reared in Italy and Africa, is not esteemed here, having proved more sluggish and obstinate than the mule.

Cultivation appears general over the face of the country, but is conducted with more industry than skill; for though there are comparatively few waste lands, and much labour is lavished on the fields and vineyards, yet the study of agriculture is very much neglected, owing to the aversion in which a country life is held; a proof of the strength of which is, that the nobles are sometimes, as a punishment, ordered by the King to retire in exile to their estates.

Notwithstanding the Sicilians boast the invention and first application of iron to the ploughshare, the plough of the present day is but a very imperfect instrument, that merely skims the soil; their carts, hoes, and rakes, are equally rude; and a bunch of brambles, drawn by an ox, supplies the place of the harrow. The primitive method of treading out corn with cattle is still preserved, notwithstanding all its disadvantages.

Owing to the negligent management of pasturage, and the want of extensive irrigation—to the neglect of roads, rivers, bridges, and drains—to the inattention to gardening and rural ornament—and to the not planting of hills and wastes, it is impossible to estimate what would be the resources of this fine country, if more energetic exertions were applied to it. From the causes above enumerated, every blight proves unusually destructive, and an unprofitable harvest threatens ruin to whole families; for though it has been supposed that land in Sicily is held only by the Crown, the Church, and the Nobility, there is a very great proportion of small landholders; as, from the want of commercial spirit and public credit, purchases of the portions which are continually offered for sale, are the only secure way in which the industrious can invest their savings.

The usual process from agriculture, after clearing the stones from the ground, is, to commence with sowing wheat, of which the best kinds are, the farro, or triticum spelta, a long grain, and nearly twice the size of the common English wheat; it is generally boiled whole, as a substitute for barley or rice,—and the Majorca, or triticum sativum, an oval, soft wheat, of which the flour is remarkably white, and used only for the best bread, biscuits, pastry, *&c.* The crop of wheat is succeeded by hemp, maize, lentils, or other pulse; and in the ensuing seasons generally by barley and beans, followed by mixed esculents and a fallow. The harvest begins in the latter end of June, and continues through July and August; nor are there two successive crops of any one thing in the year, except what are forced in such

grounds as are artificially irrigated, called ortaggi. Indeed, in many parts, from the scarcity of manure, the peasants are reduced to the necessity of leaving their fields fallow every other season.

Produce.—It is customary to sow a salm of wheat on a salm of land, but the quantity of seed is lessened in proportion as the soil is more fertile. The usual produce is from ten to sixteen salms, and in the most favourable years, twenty-eight for one; but no part of Sicily can pretend to the once boasted hundred fold, which I am inclined to receive merely as a poetical metaphor. The hedysarum coronarium, or red clover, by the Sicilians called sudda, is sometimes sowed with wheat, and the following year, together with the avena sativa and erba-medica, forms excellent hay; but the culture of other artificial grasses is little known, the spontaneous graminous production of nature being most frequently mowed for hay.

The brigghia di favi, broom rape, or orobanche major, is allowed by its parasitical attachment to usurp the nourishment and destroy great quantities of leguminous plants.

The grape vine is one of the chief objects of agricultural attention, and from the care taken in its cultivation, proves abundantly productive, affording comfort and profit to the farmer, and considerable revenue to the state. The vines are commonly planted about four feet from each other; but in very fertile plains, rather wider asunder, in order to admit of the use of the plough instead of the hoe. The ground is turned up three times a year; first in January, immediately after the pruning, when the buds that will bear fruit are already distinguishable; secondly, in April, when the branches are sufficiently grown to show where the support of reeds will be needed, and which are placed accordingly; and lastly, in June or July, when it is advisable to expose the grapes to the sun, by tying up the leaves, but not taking them off, as that would force

the plants to throw out fresh shoots at an improper season. Some farmers give an additional hoeing in the course of the spring, for the purpose of raising a crop of pulse between the vines. The grape is not produced until the third year after the planting of the vine, but then begins to ripen in July, and is plucked for the vintage in September. The produce of a thousand vines varies from about a pipe and a quarter to four pipes of wine, according to the season, to their situation, age, and culture. On planting a vineyard, olive trees are sometimes intermixed, in the proportion of one to fifty, and in other instances they are more thickly strewed, because the vine begins to bear, as before stated, after the third year, but the olive tree not until after the tenth year, by which time the vine is already past its prime; thus oil is made to succeed to wine, and the land continues equally profitable without any loss of time. There are nineteen different species of grapes, of which the most esteemed are, the zibibbo, the carniola, the Greek, the muscatel, the canicula, the dry, and the winter grape, and from the greater part is expressed a great variety of rich-flavoured wines of every kind.

The currant vine is cultivated in the adjacent islands of Lipari, nearly in the same manner as the grape, and the fruit is gathered towards the latter end of August, when it is exposed to the sun for seven or eight days, sprinkled with a lye, that absorbs the acidity, and is then packed up for exportation.

The olive is a tree that grows on most soils, but as it prefers the calcareous, which is the most common one, its culture is very profitable, and both its fruit, and the oil expressed from it, form staple articles of sustenance, as well as of commerce. The young trees are planted at such a distance from each other, as is supposed will allow room for the branches to spread to their full growth, their expansion being generally equal to their height. Ungrafted trees bear a very delicate fruit, too small, however, to yield much oil; if a slip is taken from an old plant, above the graft, its produce

will be equally valuable; but if taken from below it, or if it be the shoot from a seed, it requires ingrafting from the old plant, and in either case, the fruit, during the first ten years, is too trifling to be taken into calculation. The value of the tree increases with time, and its duration is from a hundred and fifty to three hundred years. Its fruitfulness then gradually declines, until, at an advanced age, it becomes entirely barren. A great quantity of common oil is made in all parts of the island. The olives are crushed, slightly heated, and pressed in baskets; the produce is generally of a dead colour, and from allowing the fruit to ferment, and from not assorting it, or changing the baskets annually, the oil is apt to be pungent, rancid, and fetid. Some few farmers, however, are more careful, and the produce is, in consequence, not only pleasant and nutritious, but also more copious; for by these the fruit is picked from the trees before it has quite lost its green shade, instead of being shaken or beaten off with sticks, when it has become black, or waiting until it is blown down by a strong wind. While the olives are in the baskets under the press, hot water is thrown upon them, for the purpose of assisting the disengagement of the oily particles from the pulp and mucus of the fruit, and the whole falls into a trench round the press, in which the oil naturally soon rising to the surface, is put into large jars, which are generally preferred to casks, for its preservation.

Manna is extracted from the fraxinus ornus, a species of ash tree, of moderate height and pleasing appearance, which succeeds best when exposed to northerly breezes; the greatest produce, therefore, is in the neighbourhood of Castellamare, Carini, Cefalù, and Caronìa, where it yields an annual revenue of upwards of forty thousand pounds sterling. In July and August, horizontal incisions are made in the bark, from whence a frothy, glutinous, light-coloured liquor exudes, and is received on the leaves of the dry prickly-pear, where, by the warmth of the sun, it quickly condenses into a stalactitic mass; this is of the finest quality, and is carefully taken to the stores in

baskets, and then packed in boxes for exportation. From the same tree, a higher-coloured manna is extracted, which, though more cathartic, is heavier and less valuable. A decoction of the wood of the frassinus ormus is esteemed efficacious for the dropsy, and some other disorders, on account of its peculiarly aperient qualities.

The rich vegetable salt of the barilla is a profitable commodity, but the cultivation of the plant, the salsola-kali, is troublesome and expensive. After repeatedly turning over and breaking the soil, (always in a situation near the sea, for the advantage of saline influence,) the seed is sowed in February or March, and from the time the plant rises above the ground, until it has acquired its full size, it is necessary to keep the ground well cleared of weeds, which would otherwise stint or entirely prevent the growth of the barilla. There is an insect called masone, the brucus salsola-kali, which seems to be generated on this plant after rain, which is also very injurious to it. It is cut in October, and placed in convenient heaps, on grates over cavities, where, when dry, or nearly so, it is set on fire, and the lixivious ashes falling through and adhering together, are taken out in as large lumps as possible, for the smaller pieces and the dust are of inferior value. The soda of Ustica is esteemed the finest in Europe, and its peculiar goodness is supposed to arise from the plant being burnt in a certain stage, before it is thoroughly dry.

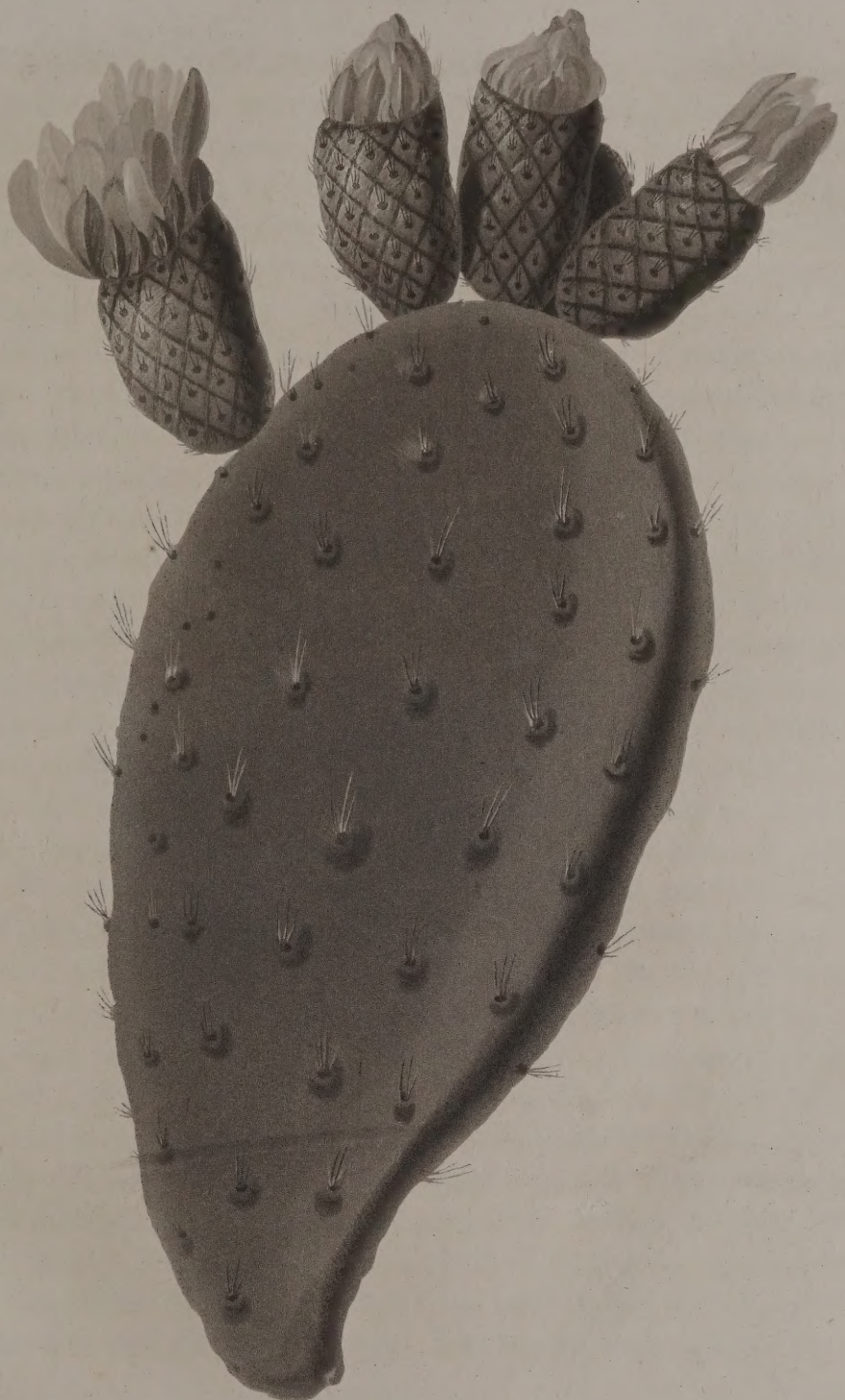
Saffron is an article of exportation, of which the best is that produced in the neighbourhood of S. Filippo d'Argirò. It requires a sandy soil, to be well ploughed and manured, and may be planted all the year round, except in the months of November and December; it is placed at small distances from each other, must be carefully weeded as it springs up, and, with attention, lasts about three years, producing a crop after the first eight or ten months.

The cultivation of sumach is attended with considerable profit. It is planted in a light sandy soil, in rows, each shrub at the distance of about two feet from the next, the intervening earth being carefully weeded and hoed two or three times within the year,

generally during the autumnal rains, at Christmas, and in March, at which last period it commences budding. The shoots are cut in the dry days of August, and are threshed on a corn-floor, to separate the dark green leaves, which are then crumbled and sifted for exportation.

A trade is also carried on in the fruit, the spirit, and the syrup of the carubba, or locust, a species of bean, the fruit of a beautiful indigenous tree, the ceratoria siliqua, that sweeps the ground with its fine-arched branches. It is of a hardy nature, and flourishes in most parts of the island, but particularly in the country of Modica and the Val di Noto. The pods are long and hard, not unlike those of the tamarind; and are used not only for cattle, but as an alterative and stomachic food by the peasants, who are prepossessed with an idea, that it is in this bean, and not in the insect, that they ought to recognise the locusts, on which, with wild honey, St. John fed in the wilderness. Many have imagined the carubba to have been the favourite diet of the Lotophagi, and, perhaps, it was so; but its occasional use in the present day can bear no comparison to the claims of the rhamnus lotus, a shrub I have met with in such abundance in Africa, as to indicate it likely to have been the general food of a primitive people. It is certain that both are still eaten in the Levant. My late Moorish pilot, on the coast of Egypt, used to eat the insect frequently.

The Sicillians are extremely partial to the Indian fig, or prickly pear, the fruit of the cactus opuntia; whole families subsist on it during the time it is in season, and find it wholesome, refreshing, and nourishing. Being a very hardy plant, it is found in every part of the island, in the greatest profusion, forming hedges and enclosures, and clothing the fissures of walls, rocks, and ruins, which would otherwise be barren. The facility of multiplying this plant increases its value, for by merely sticking a single leaf into the ground, it takes root, grows to a considerable size, one leaf shooting out of another without any stem; only as it becomes old, a sort of bark forms round the oldest leaves by their getting hard and brown. The fruit



LEAF OF THE CACTUS OPUNTIA.

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armed with innumerable minute prickles, grows to the number of ten, or even twenty, on each of the thorny pulpy leaves, ripens in August, and continues fresh until December, but may be kept throughout the year, by gathering a portion of the plant with it. In the process of converting lava into soil, this plant is found highly efficacious, as its roots insinuate themselves into the fissures, and hasten the pulverization of the previously-barren mass.

Hedges are likewise formed of the aloe, or agave Americana, which being also of a hardy nature, will grow even on the sands, exposed to any winds. In the spring the flowering stems rise with astonishing rapidity, to the height of from fifteen to twenty feet, and when in full bloom, they have an unique and handsome appearance, arising from the richness and peculiar beauty of its thyrse of flowers. The aloe requires five or six years to make this astonishing effort, and dies a few months afterwards, throwing up several suckers to fill its place. A thread, called zambarone, is extracted from the deciduous parts; but it is very coarse, and the process of obtaining it extremely troublesome, for it requires to be soaked nearly a fortnight and then pounded, after which the transversal fibres are cleared off, and the remainder well washed and beaten. It is much used, however, for halters, for soldiers' tufts and cockades, and in making up millinery. Both the aloe and the cactus opuntia form impenetrable palisades for fortifications, and in the plains they present very serious obstructions to the operations of cavalry.

Besides the zambarone, there are several other substitutes for hempen ropes. One is the funa (or rope) di disa, the arundo ampelodesmos, of which a great quantity is used for various purposes. Another is, the funa di giunco, the juncus acutus or scirpus romanus, which abounds on the southern shore, from whence the rest of the island is provided. A third is, the funa di giumarra, the chimœrops humilis, which plant is also used for plaiting the seats of common chairs, and for making brooms. Lastly, woollen, horse hair, and

goat hair ropes, are found very useful for particular purposes, especially the machinery used in the silk manufactories.

Pistacio nuts, an article of exportation, considered indigenous, are produced both by the male and female plants, though the latter would be barren, but for the aspersion of the farina from the former, which is distinguished by its smaller and darker leaves, and more compact blossoms. Fecundity, therefore, is generally promoted by planting trees of different sexes near each other; though it is sometimes accomplished by grafting, and also by gathering, the male flowers called scornabecco, drying them, and sprinkling the dust over the female tree, which always bursts into bloom later than the male. These nuts are of a green colour, and of a delicate and grateful flavour, forming an ingredient in many preserves, and used profusely in ices.

Fig trees are also of both genders, and the female is often rendered prolific by conveying insects from the male, with the pollen adhering to them, which produces the impregnation of the female tree, but this practice is not always necessary, though it is supposed to ensure the finest fruit. The figs of Sicily are extremely delicious when fresh, but owing to want of care, and a bad method of drying them, they generally become tough, dry, and dirty. The graft or slip of the tree will grow in almost any soil, but succeed best in light lands, or in stony grounds, besides which the trees appear to sow themselves, being often seen growing out of the fissures of walls, among ruins, and on rocks nearly barren. Some kinds are covered with fruit before there is any foliage: the figs bursting from the brown bark, are apparently produced without any flower, though closer observation discovers it in the eye of the fruit. The tree is but of a moderate size, though the leaves are reckoned among the largest of those of any fruit tree.

The date, another sexual tree, was once very common in Sicily, and was planted in stately groves near all the Saracen palaces and

castles, but the pious Normans, in their zeal to destroy all the symbols of Mahometanism, burnt or cut down the greatest part of them; though others account for the loss, by accusing the Saracens themselves of felling the males during their retreat before Count Roger. As fructification cannot take place without the communication of the farina to the female, the present trees are mostly barren, or their fruit an immature product; notwithstanding that this most useful plant, affording at once food and drink, furniture and fuel, might be raised with success, were but a little attention directed towards its cultivation.

The cotton plant is an object of agriculture at Mazzara, and other places where the influence of the westerly breezes is most felt. It is sowed in April, in land that has been well ploughed two or three times, is carefully weeded, and the tops pruned off. It is a small shrub with a yellow flower, and attains the height of from one to two feet; it blooms in July and August, the pods are the size of a large walnut, which when ripe, burst open, and expose the delicate down within, which is gathered for store in September and October. A second shoot takes place towards Christmas, the pods of which are very inferior, and are used by many farmers as an unusually nutritive diet for cattle, though it is thought by others to have an injurious effect on the qualities of the milk and meat.

The almond trees form numerous groves throughout the whole island; they bud in February, and when covered with their delicate tinted blossoms, present the most beautiful objects in the vegetable kingdom. The well-known fruit, the finest of the amygdalus species, ripens in July, and is produced in abundance for domestic consumption; and both the nut itself, as well as the oil extracted from it, afford staple articles of exportation.

The sugar-cane formerly abounded in Sicily, and the refining of it continued for a long time to be a source of profit; but on the introduction of Brazilian produce, that trade suffered from the

competition, and is now nearly lost. A small plantation still exists near Avola, the canes of which are very slender and low, yielding only a small quantity of indifferent rum, and will probably be abandoned altogether.

The liquorice plant, glycyrrhiza glabra, is found growing in spontaneous abundance on the plains of Milazzo and Catania, and in the south-west parts of Sicily, where a considerable quantity of liquorice is manufactured for exportation. The roots are cut into slips and bruised in a press, then thrown into a caldron and boiled for several hours to soften and moisten them; they are afterwards placed on a strainer, through which the juice trickles into a trough; this liquor is again boiled until it condenses to a thick black paste, when it is packed up in bay leaves for sale. The roots of the olive are esteemed the best fuel for the operation.

The ricinus palma christi grows luxuriantly in most parts of the country, and bears innumerable clusters of the bean, as pregnant of castor oil, as any I have observed in tropical regions; but from the Sicilians being unacquainted with the proper method of expressing it, they are only able to procure a trifling quantity for immediate use, the seeds being bruised and pressed when wanted, in a manner similar to that by which the oil of almonds is prepared.

Many plants of the most delicate nature flourish in the open air, of which the principal are some species of the musa, the lotus, the antholyza, the zizyphus, the nymphæa, the cannacorus, the cassia, and the euphorbia; and many rare species of the cactus, the acacia, the cyperus papyrus, and other botanical productions, more especially in the luxuriant grounds of Palermo, Girgenti, Syracuse, Carini, and the Ætnean regions.

Such declivities as are too steep for cultivation, but have the advantage of a northern aspect, produce an abundance of brush-wood, consisting of the arbutus, the myrtle, the coronilla, several species of heath, the Spanish-broom and the evergreen oak. These

luxuriant beauties are cut down every third year, as in that time they attain a sufficient size to form fagots.

Resources.—Besides the riches of her mineral and vegetable products, Sicily boasts the finest fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. These afford several species of the scomber, xiphius, coryphæna, mullus, muræna, gadus, raia, triglia, zeus, pleuronectes and clupea; and of the secondary in value may be mentioned, the ophidium, ammodytes, anarchichas, gobius, squalus, sparus, labrus, and cottus, the various species of which are enumerated in the Appendix.

The scomber thynnus, or tunny, seems to have preserved its former estimation; for, according to Oppian's Halieutics, it was in the highest request with the Greeks, Carthaginians, and Romans, who made the favourite sauce, called garum, from it, and it is now one of the principal sources of profit to individuals, and of revenue to the government *. Its average length is from four to eight feet, with a girth of nearly the same dimensions; yet there are many of still greater size, and the females are always the largest; but notwithstanding its coarse appearance, the flesh is nutritious food, and esteemed peculiarly beneficial in dropsical complaints. This fish is gregarious; the shoals enter the Mediterranean early in the year; with an extended base for the tides to act upon, as they swim broad, deep, and in a conical form. In the progress of the shoal to the eastward, it inclines over towards the European coasts, and the tunny is caught in great abundance during the months of May, June, and July; but the fishing establishments of Sicily, called Tonnare, are more lucrative than those of more northern parts; because, though the fish usually return along the African shore, great numbers are taken in October and November on the Sicilian

* Pliny, xxxi. c. 9., describes the mackerel garum as of great price. The sauce made from the thynnus was of an inferior kind, called muria; and accordingly Martial says, that the garum was for the rich, and the muria for the poor.

coast. The manner of catching them is similar to that practised by the ancients; large nets are spread out in the shape of a parallelogram, about fifteen hundred feet long, three hundred wide, and from forty to a hundred deep, divided into four quadrilateral spaces, called rooms, having channels of communication with each other. These nets are moved east and west, at about a mile distant from the shore, across the known route of the fish, with each of the spaces at right angles, and secured vertically, by a number of anchors and stones at the bottom, while the upper edge of the net is floated by large logs of the cork tree, and other light wood. The whole is then connected with the shore by a stout single net of very wide meshes, called the wall, or by others "il codardo," that arrests the progress of the tunny, and induces them to enter the outer room, called the "bordonaro," which is thereupon raised a little, and closed by the boatmen on the look-out. The fish, alarmed, and seeking to escape, then swim from side to side, and thus enter the next room, or "bastardo," when their retreat is again prevented, and thus successively into the "piccolo," until they finally enter the fatal part, called the "corpo," or chamber of death, where the meshes are smaller and stronger, and made of rope superior in quality to that of the rest of the net. When by these means the chamber is filled, which sometimes occupies two or three days, large flat-floored boats, peculiarly constructed for the purpose, assisted by many smaller ones, close round, and weighing the net, secure the prey with harpoons, and another species of sharp hook on a wooden staff, that is struck into the head to prevent the fish from floundering, and in the management of which weapon the fishermen display an active dexterity. There are often many other fish taken with the tunnies, all of which, except the sword-fish, the alalonga, and palamita, become the property of the labourers.

The xiphias gladius, or sword-fish, passes by the shores of Sicily, on its route to the Archipelago and Black Sea, in the vernal equinox,

and is often taken with the tunny in nets; but, in the Straits of Messina, there is a particular fishery for them, in which more activity is displayed than in any other Mediterranean establishment. A sort of sharp-sterned whale-boat, called a "luntra," attends a vessel with a high mast, on which a man is placed to look out for the approach of the fish; and, on notice being given, the luntra, furnished also with a mast (on which a man is stationed to direct the chase), is despatched to the attack. The harpoon is thrown, and when the fish is struck it immediately dives, and the staff quits the blade of the instrument; the long coil of line is then allowed to run out freely, to play with the animal till it becomes faint, but it is sometimes so vigorous as to oblige the fishermen to cut it adrift. The length of this fish is from seven to thirteen feet, exclusive of a sword projecting from the snout, about three feet long, and three or four inches broad, and their weight varies from eighty to upwards of two hundred and fifty pounds. Notwithstanding this magnitude, the flesh is esteemed delicate food, and when broiled in slices resembles veal. Besides this mode of fishing, great numbers of the young are very improvidently taken in nets, called Palamidara; in fact, the preservation of the fry of fish of every kind is too little attended to, and there is a destructive method of fishing practised, called the Bilancella, in which two latine-rigged vessels, with a fresh breeze, drag an immense net by means of hawsers, which draws in every thing in its course.

A very large species of dog-fish is taken in the same Straits, which from its appearance, and many of its habits, I should consider to be the same with the innoxious squalus maximus of Tropical Seas; but that, either from this or some other species, accidents to swimmers occasionally occur. Some of these monsters are at least twenty feet in length, and, among those that have been taken, some have weighed upwards of twenty hundred weight, though the greater part are small. It is curious that they make their appearance about the same

time with the cicirello, a small and delicate fish, not unlike the white-bait of the Thames.

The clupea encrasiocolus, or anchovy, is taken in shallow water, during the months of March, April, and May, by means of nets ten or twelve feet wide, and very long. The curing occupies about a month. The fish are first thrown into brine to give the salters time to nip off their heads with the thumb and finger, and pack them regularly with alternate layers of salt in the barrels designed for their exportation, which generally contain about two hundred and fifty pounds each. When the cask is filled, a round board somewhat smaller than the head-piece is placed over the whole, and loaded with stones, by which the contents are sufficiently compressed in a few days to allow of the casks being properly coopered for exportation.

The mugil cephalus, or mullet, is taken in weirs made of canes, enclosing a circular space, nearly in the manner described by Oppian. Of the roe of this excellent and abundant fish a considerable quantity of the best botarga is made, and forms an article of commerce at Lentini; whereas, in other parts of Sicily, the roe of the alalonga, the tonno or tunny, and the pavoro, are preserved in a similar way.

There are many varieties of testaceous and crustaceous fish, affording delicate food; these are usually taken towards the full and change of the moon, when, from the spring tides carrying more sustenance than the neap, they are generally much better than at other times. The principal kinds of the former in request are, the buccinum, cardium, patrella, ostrea, murex, chama, nautilus, and pinna marina; among the latter the lobster is rare, but the sea abounds in gigantic prawns, in shrimps, in crabs, and particularly in the echinus esculentus, with which the shallow sandy bottoms are often covered. With regard to the murex purpura, I could not understand how so beautiful a dye was ever obtained from it, having examined the fish strictly,

until I met with an intelligent remark in *Polwhele's Devonshire*, which suggests, that the crafty Phœnicians assisted the process by their intercourse with our shores, using tin in fixing the colour, as the trade in that metal was solely under their own management, and the leading character of that celebrated die was its unfadingness. But Reaumur thinks that the Tyrian purple was obtained from a slender white vein behind the head of the buccinum lapillus. This tenacious matter, on exposure to air, and still more on exposure to the rays of the sun, successively becomes yellow, green, blue, and finally settles into a durable purplish red, or crimson, which resists both acids and alkalies.

The sepia and hydra are also much esteemed; and among the most curious of the mollusca and the zoophytæ may be noticed the holothurai, salpa, tethys, doris, and medusa, with the tubipora, gorgonia spongia, madrepora, and tubularia. Coral is fished for in many places, but yields the greatest profit to the seamen and merchants of Trapani, on the western shore of the island.

It may be proper to add, that, exclusive of the articles already enumerated, Sicily derives important advantages from her exports of

Argols	Hemp	Pulse
Bees-wax	Hides	Raisins
Bullocks	Honey	Rice
Brandy	Lemons	Salt
Canary seed	Lemon-juice	Silk
Cantharides	Linen rags	Skins of various animals
Capers	Linseed	Snow
Cheese	Linseed oil	Soap
Coral	Lupins	Squills
Cork	Macaroni	Timber
Cotton	Madder roots	Tobacco
Cream of tartar	Nitre	Wheat
Essences	Nuts of various kinds	Wool
Flax	Orchill	

CHAPTER II.

Of the Inhabitants, their Domestic Habits, Literature, Amusements, Prejudices, and Religious Customs.

Nobles. WITH the united advantages of climate, situation, and produce, detailed in the preceding sheets, Sicily ought to possess a corresponding population; but this is far from being the case, for the number of people, now on the whole island, does not exceed what the cities of Syracuse and Agrigentum jointly have boasted in ancient times. The disproportion of nobles is great, there being in this small kingdom, exclusively of the Royal Family, the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, and other church dignitaries, no less than one hundred and twenty-seven Princes, seventy-eight Dukes, one hundred and forty Marquisses, with Counts, Barons, and Knights almost innumerable. Many of these titles, however, never were the honourable badges of power and trust, but simply marks of distinction, conferring little more than local importance, and bestowed by the Crown for various services. The baronial peers alone possess any influence in the country, and are entitled to sit in the Upper House of Parliament.

A few of the nobles attend to public affairs, and shew a considerable share of talent and sagacity; but, from defective education, and from being deprived of the advantages of travelling, the majority have narrow and contracted ideas, which lead them to prefer the dissipation and the heartless pleasures of the capital, to rural, literary, or scientific pursuits. So far from enjoying the varied beauties of Sicilian landscape,

their country excursions, called Villeggiature, are confined to a residence, of about a month in spring and autumn, at a small distance from the great towns, where the time is passed in the usual routine of paying and receiving visits, in those monotonous assemblies called conversazioni, and in gambling. In their deportment they are obliging, affable, and attentive, though very ceremonious. Those violations of truth and morality that so frequently cloud the brightest titles, may be attributed to the neglect of the domestic ties, to their indolence, and to the effects of bad example.

In this elevated class the rights of primogeniture are so strictly exercised, that the eldest son alone is well provided for; the others being retainers for life, on a small pension, called "Il piatto," or dinner-cover, at the father's or elder brother's table, are driven to mean habits; and, as they are not allowed to marry, and are generally deficient in military or civil enterprise, they abandon themselves to idleness, vice, and debauchery.

There is also a class of nobility miserably poor, whose honours never had any patrimony annexed to them, and who are yet too vain to permit themselves or their progeny to engage in commercial or professional undertakings; and it is this class that, by its misdeeds, has lowered the respectability of the whole Sicilian peerage.

A pompous affectation of title is, indeed, the principal trait of the Sicilian character, and is as observable in the vain inscriptions which their public edifices, fountains, and statues display, as in the metaphoric superscriptions of letters in use among all ranks; for even tradesmen address each other Most Illustrious, and a letter to any gentleman, scarcely ranking with an esquire in England, is addressed as pompously as to the first peer of the realm—"A Sua Eccellenza, l'Illustrissimo Signore Stimatissimo, e Padrone Collendissimo, Don ——;" here follows the Christian name, and then the title, surname, *&c. &c.*

Most of the nobles have a palace of their own, which goes by

their name; but very few, if any, have an establishment sufficiently numerous to occupy the whole building, and many let even the "appartamento nobile," or second floor, restricting themselves to an inferior suite of rooms. They are proud of having a tall robust man as porter at the gate, decked out in more gorgeous livery than any of their other servants, with mustachios, a huge cocked hat and feather, broad cross-belt and hanger, and a large silver-headed cane.

In Sicily every house is a palace, and every handicraft a profession; every respectable person is addressed as his Excellency, and even a servant on an errand is charged with an embassy. This attachment to ostentation is so inveterate, that the poorer nobility and gentry are penurious to an extreme in their domestic arrangements, and almost starve themselves to be able to appear abroad in the evening with an equipage, often mean, and calculated rather to indicate poverty than comfort.

Community.—The Sicilians are of a middle stature, and well made, with dark eyes, and coarse black hair; they have better features than complexions, and attain maturity, and begin to decline, earlier than the inhabitants of more northern regions. In conversation they are cheerful, inquisitive, and fanciful, with a redundance of unmeaning compliments, showing themselves not so deficient in natural talents, as in the due cultivation of them. Their delivery is vehement, rapid, full of action, and their gesticulation violent; the latter is so significant as almost to possess the powers of speech, and animates them with a peculiar vivacity, bordering, however, rather on conceits than wit, on farce than humour. But the principal characteristic is an effeminate laziness, among those of easy circumstances, which they attempt to excuse, by alleging the intense heat of the climate, without taking example from the warmer regions of Egypt and India, or the energy of the British colonists in the torrid zone; in fact, they have a practical illustration close to them, in

the hardy labour and patient industry of the peasants, calessiers, and porters of Malta.

Notwithstanding the sarcasms of Montesquieu, and the more dangerous admission of Milton, the idea, that the energies of the mind are circumscribed by the influence of climate, must be condemned, not only as a hasty prejudice, but as a position highly pernicious to intellectual exertion. It is freedom, emulation, and public spirit that stimulate genius and mature talent; and Milton's own immortal strains, together with the works of an illustrious galaxy of philosophers, poets, historians, painters, and warriors of our own empire, sufficiently refute the theory. The climate of Greece is still the same that Homer, Pindar, Pericles, Phidias, Praxiteles, Apelles, and Demosthenes breathed, but with her liberty and her glory her genius fled. Nor can it ever be forgotten that historians, legislators, and poets, flourished in the remote, barren, and frozen Iceland, and that in hyperborean regions, letters found an asylum during the dark ages of Europe.

Army.—The army is in a neglected state, and owing to the slowness of promotion, few can aspire to preferment; professional emulation is therefore crushed, and the thirst for renown and glory is almost unknown. Local prejudice usurps the place of patriotism, and instead of the virtuous impulse that inspires true military honour, a phantom is introduced that permits the exercise of various obliquities, and only shews itself irritated on their detection. The engineer and artillery officers are instructed in mathematics as a part of their professional studies, but all officers, except those possessing the most powerful interest, must serve a long cadetship. Their uniforms are neat, simple, and appropriate, and no soldiers in Europe keep their arms and accoutrements in better order than those of Sicily.

Navy.—There are resources for the formation of a navy, sufficient to establish the respectability of the island, but from circumstances unexplained, they have hitherto equipped only flotilla vessels, and the gun-boats in commission, are principally employed in the service of the health office. The sailors are cheerful, hardy, and daring, and from my service with them, I can bear testimony to their temperance, sobriety, and personal courage. They are, on the other hand, very superstitious, for every vessel has its tutelary saint, and every sea-port its churches and chapels lined with votive pictures of miraculous escapes from the perils of the sea.

Artists.—The modern Sicilian painters discover but little of the elevated conception of art, by which the energetic productions of such masters as Alibrandi, Novelli, Antonello, Rodriguez, and Rasiliba, are so eminently distinguished from the cold academic studies of the day. Excepting in Riolo, Patania, Velasquez, and the brothers Subba, painting at present seems rather a trade than an art, and in their stiff landscapes and monotonous figures, a florid style of colouring is substituted for feeling, for taste, and for sentiment.

The art of sculpture at present is in so very languid a state, that I cannot recollect a specimen worth particular notice, though the works of Gaggini, Tipa, and other natives of the island, who had made some progress in this art, are in sufficient number to stimulate exertion. Engraving has never flourished, it is as yet in a very humble state, and many of the most valuable publications of Palermo and Catania, are extremely disfigured by the scratchings of Antonio Zacca.

Mechanics.—The various mechanics are ingenious as copyists, but being too observant of the numerous holidays of their rubric,

and indulging in the indolence fostered by them, they do not rise above mediocrity in their respective branches; nor do they appear to entertain any idea of the advantages to be derived from constant employment, or the benefit of working for a moderate profit. Shopkeepers, although from the little business they transact, they appear scarcely able to subsist, are mostly so sluggish, as rather to permit a customer to depart than reach a parcel from an upper shelf, or unpack many articles for his inspection.

Physic.—Fortunately for the public, though medicine has made but little progress, no person can practise physic, or sell drugs, without acquiring the requisite qualifications, and the previous approbation of government after due examination.

Lawyers.—Though they are free from quacks in the healing art, they are pestered with a very numerous tribe of pettifogging empirics in the law, nicknamed "paglietti," or men of straw, by whose wakeful chicanery, that bane of civilized society, litigation, is rendered quite unavoidable. The profession of the law, being almost the only road to distinction, is so eagerly embraced, that in Palermo alone, the advocates, solicitors, notaries, clerks, *&c.*, are said to amount to four thousand, and such is the venal administration of the penal and judicial codes, that in the constant cavilling of their courts, large fortunes are reaped by men of but inferior talents. There is no person of the most moderate income, who does not find it necessary, regularly to pay an annual retaining fee to one or more solicitors.

Peasants.—The peasants are distinguished by a peculiar dress, in which the most remarkable parts are a broad leathern belt, a white cotton cap, or a silk net for the hair, (not unlike that on some of the

ancient Syracusan coins,) and very large silver buckles to the shoes. They are industrious and sober, with better domestic feelings than the citizens, and frequently exhibit considerable intelligence through a cloud of that peculiar and suspicious cunning called "scaltrezza." Owing to their general ignorance, they are extremely credulous and superstitious. They are, however, rather bigots than fanatics, shewing acts of civility and kindness to such heretical strangers as are thrown in their way.

Marriages.—Weddings are generally managed by the friends of the parties, who arrange the affairs, and settle the bride's dota, or dowry, which, in families of rank, is often a daily stipend from the patrimony, and some jewels, effects, and presents, which used all to be returned to her father if she died without issue, though by the new code, introduced in 1812, some alterations are made in this arrangement. They hold that an early marriage is the pledge of industry and morality, and such are common; but a man cannot enter into the nuptial state, without the consent of his parents, until he has attained the age of thirty; though, if he should elope with a female, and apply to a bishop, the prelate cannot refuse to unite them, without incurring the odium of the consequent immorality. Bans are published for three Sundays, but may be dispensed with on proper application. If the ceremony takes place in the morning, it is previously necessary for the parties to confess, hear mass, and receive the sacrament, all which may be avoided by being married in the evening; the sooner afterwards, however, they accomplish these devotions, the better it is considered.

In many parts it is customary to give a spoonful of honey to the bride and bridegroom on their leaving the church, and to throw wheat on them, as presages of happiness and fertility; and if the sun shine at the same time, it is esteemed auspicious. At the

A Shepherd of Bronte. A Sicilian Peasant. A Campiero, or Guard. A Peasant's Wife in a Gala Dress. A Peasant's Wife.

COSTUME OF SICILIAN PEASANTRY.

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feast which follows, it is usual to throw nuts and almonds on them as of old, and in various country towns, each of the guests is expected to dance.

When a marriage is about to take place, instead of waiting for the congratulations of friends, the parents or guardians communicate the intelligence to each acquaintance by a complimentary card, requesting approbation thereof. The prospect of reciprocal and permanent happiness, founded on mutual attachment, ought to be the basis of the engagement; this, however, though matrimony is one of their sacraments, is far from being the object in the generality of families of rank, among whom love is rather a physical than a moral affection, conjugal attachment but a mere name. The detestable presence of a cicisbeo, or cavalier-servente, under the pretence of relationship or platonic attachment, is allowed to offend morality, and estrange a husband and wife, not only from each other, but even from their offspring. The prevalence of this indelicate vice, (an odious memento of the immorality and degradation of the seventeenth century, in which the Sicilian Vespers occurred,) may be imputed to the neglect of sentiment in their unions, and to the substitution of the sordid motives that frequently produce a match. In these the female, of twelve or fourteen years of age, is often just released from the trammels of a cloister, ill calculated to form a girl for maternal duties, and compelled to accept of a man, with whom she has scarcely had any previous acquaintance, and in some instances without having even seen the object of her parents' choice. Sicilians have been accused of connubial jealousy; but of this their universal practice will fully acquit them, and the defence that has been set forth, by superficial observers, in behalf of their domestic arrangements, only proves, that nothing can exist, however monstrous, absurd, or despicable, but may find its admirers and panegyrists.

It is the practice with the middle and lower classes to appraise all articles given with the bride, a few days before the nuptial ceremony

takes place; on which occasion all the relations and friends are invited, and each is expected to bring a present for the lady, after the manner of the Epaulia and Anacalypteria of the ancient Greeks. When they are assembled, a sheet is spread out on the ground in the middle of the room, for the reception of the things, and a respectable dealer, in whose probity mutual confidence is placed, values the articles, and draws up the inventory.

Births.—On the approaching birth of a child, great satisfaction is demonstrated throughout the family, and the midwife, attired in gay apparel, is conducted through the streets in an open sedan chair, ornamented with flowers, to which every carriage gives way. The new-born infant is swathed like an Egyptian mummy, and taken to the church for baptism as soon as possible, and thenceforward, in the upper and middle classes, is usually consigned to a nurse. Parturition is divested of much of the sufferings and danger experienced in more northern countries, the period of confinement being only eight or ten days; and even within twenty-four hours after the birth of the child, the mother receives visitors of both sexes in her bed-room, which on such an occasion is rendered very showy; the bedsteads being of iron or bronze, with silk damask furniture, mosquito curtains, pillows ornamented with lace and ribands; and an expensive silk, or satin quilt, covering the bed and reaching to the floor.

The Host.—When a patient is despaired of by the physicians, it is deemed necessary to administer the sacrament of extreme unction; and accordingly, the host is carried in state through the streets to the house of the dying person, preceded by banners, incense burning, and a bell; as it advances, every one kneels until the procession is past, while those in the houses, on hearing the bell, instantly run to the windows, (shewing a light if at night,) and fall on their knees in

prayer. I was one evening at the Carolina Conversazione rooms at Palermo, when most of the principal peers of Sicily, were playing at *rouge et noir*, and the deal having run several times, the stakes had increased to a considerable amount, and every one was anxious for the next turn up; yet when at this critical moment, the tinkling of a bell was heard, away went the cards, the banker swept his money into a handkerchief, and down went princes, and duchesses, and dukes, and princesses, on their knees, in promiscuous confusion, until it had passed by.

Burials.—The dead are generally conveyed to sepulture, attended by a procession of priests chanting hymns, with lighted torches, and preceded by a crucifix and bell, on hearing which, people take off their hats until the corpse has passed. The deceased is decorated with flowers, and borne along, sometimes uncovered, full dressed, and on an open bier adorned with embroidery; but those of the common class, are put into a sedan chair with cross bones and a skull painted on the pannels.

Dwellings.—The apartments of the gentry are commonly large and airy, but comfort is a term ill understood in any rank, and cleanliness a quality not in general requisition. Most of the domestic offices, even to the making of beds, are performed by a set of dirty men-servants, for the proportion of female servants is very small, and all are so miserably paid, that honesty is not even expected from them. The furniture in general is more splendid than useful, paintings, gold cornices, mirrors, and marble tables abound, but to the same rooms there will be miserable windows, ill-made doors, and dirty brick floors, and the ascent is by large but filthy public stairs, often crowded with beggars, and offensive to more senses than one.

Females.—Inattention to cleanliness may be in great measure owing to the females of the family having scarcely any domestic charge, and no authority whatever in money transactions; it is indeed to be regretted, that few of the numerous employments, for which the sex seems properly calculated, are here practised. Reading, writing, drawing, and the study of languages, are neglected; rural pursuits they have an aversion to; their best hours glide away in acts of exterior devotion, petty intrigue, and insipid conversazioni. To this idleness may be partly attributed their rapid change from pretty lively brunettes, to languid, sallow, and unwieldy matrons; for Sicilian beauty fades almost as soon as it blooms, although it is not very uncommon to meet those whose praises have been so elegantly sung with:

"Gli occhi stellanti, e le serene ciglia
"La bella bocca angelica, di perle
"Piena, e di rose, e di dolci parole*."

They are too inattentive to the charms of simple and neat attire, for at home, and particularly in summer, they indulge in the most slovenly costume, and too often evince by their conduct the forcible association between mind and manners; while in public they are injudiciously loaded with a profusion of ornaments, and dressed in ill-assorted colours.

The females of Sicily, in former times, however, proved themselves capable of the most generous and exalted sentiments, and have on several occasions distinguished themselves by an heroic constancy in defence of their country; as, amongst others, may be instanced the ancient sieges of Motya and Selinus; that of Palermo, when they made bowstrings of their tresses; and the still more modern defence of Messina against Charles of Anjou, on which occasion their

* Trans. The beaming eyes and brow serene,
Th' angelic beauteous mouth, with pearls,
And roses and sweet words replete.

devotion and patriotism were so conspicuous as to be the admiration of all ranks, and to ensure the preservation of the city.

The knowledge of Sicilian ladies is very limited, and their acquirements extremely superficial; nor can the indiscriminate admiration they profess for the fine arts screen them from a charge of ignorance, as their visits to galleries are but rare, and even then only fashionable lounges; and, unfortunately for the fair sex, collections of painting and sculpture, by exhibiting such subjects as Lot and his daughters, Samson and Delilah, Susannah and the Elders, and nudities of every description, seem intended to exclude the female of delicacy; while the disgusting representations of the broiling of St. Lawrence, the flaying of St. Bartholomew, the massacre of the Innocents, the decollations of Holofernes, Sisera, and St. John, with hundreds of other revolting murders, that abound every where, can only instil gloom and cruelty, fanaticism and disgust. Another inroad on modest decorum (as applicable, by the by, to other parts of Europe), is the practice of placing girls under the tuition of men, no matter what their moral character, for the acquirement of music, dancing, and various other accomplishments, that seem, by nature, to be much better adapted for the superintendence of well-educated women. For the sake of expression and éclat, theatrical freedoms are not only allowed but encouraged, and taught to dilettanti.

Diet.—In their modes of life, the Sicilians do not differ materially from other southern Europeans. Except in the higher circles, they are early risers, particularly in summer, when they take a slight unsocial breakfast, and dine at noon; after which, during the greater part of the year, they retire to rest for two or three hours; and it is customary with both sexes to lie quite naked. After the siesta succeeds the principal toilet of the day, for only then visiting and amusement begins. They sup heartily, at various hours, according

to their rank; this meal, like the comessatio of the Romans, is the most social; and fish, particularly the muræna, still forms the favourite fish.

In their diet, the Sicilians are generally temperate, though there are many exceptions; and when an entertainment is given, the guests are expected to taste of all the dishes, which are, therefore, successively handed round by the servants, after having been carved; the old adage of "Siculus coquus et Sicula mensa," is still applicable. At the feasts of the great, the head of the table is opposite the door where the servants enter, and is appropriated to the most honoured of the company, while the dependants are ranged at the opposite end, around the family chaplain, who is, too often, the butt of the party. The meal commences with soup, which is followed by maccaroni, vegetables variously dressed, and shell-fish, called "frutti di mare." The table, during the changes, remains garnished with small plates of raw ham, anchovies, olives, and fresh figs, and melon when in season; then come bouilli, huge fish, made dishes, roast meats, salad, luscious pastry, and lastly, fruit and coffee. Wine is plentifully drunk during the repast, sometimes accompanied with "brindisi," a kind of toast, expressed in an extemporaneous complimentary couplet, ending with, and rhyming, either to the name of the guest or that of the host, and latterly, the English custom of pledging has been frequently adopted. When the dessert is finished, every one rises with the ladies, a measure that contributes greatly to prevent excess. From the jealousy of their government, they are deprived of that fertile topic of conversation, political discussion.

The habit of pilfering at entertainments, is a singular meanness derived from the Romans, and still in full practice, as is also that of placing good wine at the upper end of a table, and bad or indifferent among the dependants. The rage to excel in the size of fish for their grand entertainments yet exists, and I have seen the

late Prince of Butera, than whom nobody better understood good cheer, place a whole tunny, garnished round with mullet, like a leviathan, in the centre of his festive board.

Besides the usual fare, snails, ink-fish, frogs, hawks, jackdaws, and small birds of every kind, are eaten; but maccaroni, with cheese grated over it, is the standard and favourite dish of all classes; and there are not a few, even of their public characters, renowned for their prowess in its attack; a kind of honour corresponding to that enjoyed by our five and six bottle men. Their bread is very fine, and of good quality, with the sweetish seeds of the "giugiolina," an indigenous Sicilian plant, strewed over it. They eat a greater quantity of salads, fruit, pulse, and other vegetables, than, perhaps, would be wholesome, were they not qualified by numerous culinary ingredients, among which cinnamon and other spices, sugar, oil, and garlic, form a prominent feature.

The usual drinks are light wines, lemonade, and orgeat; beer and tea they are strangers to, except medicinally. Iced creams are a favourite luxury, with which they daily regale themselves, besides drinking iced water at their meals, sometimes corrected by a few drops of "zambù," a spirit distilled from aniseed.

It is strikingly singular, that so many peculiarities of the ancients, domestic, civil, and religious, should remain in force in this island, notwithstanding its frequent change of masters, and that such strong similitude should still be observable in the details of the table. The livers of geese and fowls are still enlarged by administering peculiar food, and are considered as articles of great luxury. A strong, though not universal, prejudice exists in Sicily against eating the turkey, for which I once heard a reason, that did no honour to the narrator.

The food of the peasants consists chiefly of brown bread, eaten with cheese, onions, garlic, or salt-fish. The truly Roman dish, "polenta," is a very cheap sort of pudding, made of the flower of

maize, flavoured with grated cheese or oil. The " ministra verde" is a national, and, perhaps, the most common, dish; it is an olio of vegetables or pulse, (including, besides the kinds commonly used in England, lentils, lupins, calavanses, ciceri, and the carubba pod,) eaten either hot or cold; when in the former state, it is boiled with oil, lard, meat, or fish; when in the latter, it is simply boiled, and then dressed with oil and vinegar as a salad. It is curious that the potato, which thirty years ago was considered poisonous, is now a favourite food in many parts of the island.

On Fridays, and other fast days, all those persons who do not take out an indulgence, abstain from eating flesh, and feed on vegetables and fish, except on the Sundays of Lent, when eggs, cheese, and milk, are allowed. Soldiers and sailors on service, sick people, and all who are rich enough to take out the " bolla" of the parish priest, are permitted to indulge themselves. Lent is ushered in by the intemperate mirth of the carnival, which closes with a profuse and extravagant feast, that for its voracity and gluttony, fully establishes the claims of the goddess Addephagia to the worship of the descendants of her votaries.

Literature.—As military honours are scarcely within their reach, the pursuits of the Sicilians differ from those of more enterprising people; and as an apathy exists on political affairs, a greater proportion of literary characters is fostered, than would be expected from a population amounting to little more than a million and a half of souls. The learning of many of these literati, however, is rather the varnish of a base metal than the polish of a true gem, and many of the inane attempts of insipid egotists, at satire, wit, and science, find vent in cowardly pasquinades, and tasteless pedantic essays.

Although there is a manifest decay in the genius of their literature, some expressive sonnets and pastoral poems of merit, with a

few works on jurisprudence, ethics, mineralogy, mathematics, natural philosophy, and archæology, however disguised in diffuse and inflated language, prove that talent has not fled from amongst them; but statistics are neglected, and reviews, travels, romances, tales, plays, and other lively productions, are almost strangers to their press. Perhaps the custom of submitting manuscripts to the inspection of supervisors and censors, has contributed to clog the flights of fancy, and occasioned the suppression of many an elegant treatise; for even their "Opusculi, Effemeridi, Notizie Letterarie," and various other journals, have severally existed but for a short period. From the causes before enumerated, female readers are few, and writers of that sex unknown. Of private libraries there is a great dearth. Public libraries are numerous, though but little attended; and foreign authors, except a favoured few, (those principally German, that have been translated,) are interdicted; for the least reference to freedom of opinion, in religion or politics, is sufficient to prohibit their introduction into the country. Scarcely any English works, except *Young's Night Thoughts* and *Hervey's Meditations*, are in circulation. The names of Milton, Dryden, Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith, and other British bards, have barely pierced the gloomy atmosphere of Sicilian prejudice; and even Shakspeare was only latterly introduced to public notice, by a ballet founded on Macbeth. Scott, Crabbe, Byron, and other ornaments of the present day, have found a few admirers; some of our new works on chemistry and medicine became known and esteemed, during the occupation of the island by the British troops, when many students were received as assistants into our military hospitals.

Many literary associations have been established under the ostensible name of "Gli Ebbri," or drunken; "Riaccesi" or re-ignited; "Addolorati," or grieved; "Geniali," or sympathetic; "Animosi," or intrepid; "Periclitanti," or in danger; "Buongusto," or good taste; and others. These societies, however, have all dwindled down to a few writers of macaronics and improvisatori, or extemporaneous poets; who, indeed, amidst extravagant rhapsodies, and

verbose dulness, sometimes emit sparks of a poetic imagination. Improvisatori neither require the exercise of thought in themselves, nor in their hearers, their whole mystery being a facility and volubility in uttering a profusion of sonorous alliterations and rhymes. But it is obvious, notwithstanding their popularity, and the high encomiums of Menzini, on these "gems of Parnassus," that the composition of madrigals and sonnets is a style of writing which, when resorted to by men of high talents, has been aptly compared to Raphael or Michael Angelo painting miniatures. They contribute but little to the developement of sublime genius; and neither poetical license, luxury of words, nor harmony of numbers, can conceal the dearth of sentiment and invention, so visible in the works of all the Sicilian poets of the present day, except the melodious Meli, who, in his *Seasons*, descriptive of Sicilian scenery and manners, and other smaller poems, shews what an inexhaustible source of variety may ever be recurred to by studying nature.

Though greatly addicted to colloquial argument, the public orators in parliament, at the bar, or in the pulpit, display little to be admired in their harangues, having generally a monotonous delivery, penury of ideas, extravagant gestures, and absurd grimaces. Their allusions are rather pedantic than classic, and the neglect of general reading, together with their seldom or never travelling, deprives them of the advantages of an acquaintance with the most imposing and brilliant exertions of genius.

Language.—As Latin never exclusively prevailed in Sicily, the dialect differs both in extent and phrase from the Italian. A number of Greek and Arabic expressions have been retained, and many Norman and Spanish words have crept in, while the profusion of vowels and open sounds renders it as harmonious, sportive, and pastoral, as the Syracusan Doric of Theocritus. Though in some instances there may be a similarity, it completely differs from the vulgar and cacophonous jargon of Naples. It abounds with

diminutives, superlatives, and metaphors, to a degree that facilitates the composition of poetry. On the whole, it is so much better adapted for light and amatory effusions, than for scientific and noble objects, that, with very few exceptions, Sicilian authors write in pure Italian. So many contractions are used in the Sicilian dialect, that it requires some practice before it can be read with ease. In illustration of what has been said, it may be acceptable to many readers, to submit a few stanzas from the *Idyls* of Meli, of which, however, the literal translation subjoined can only convey the meaning, without imparting the playful ease, the richness, and the euphony of the original.

Dametu canta.

Sti silenzii, sta virdura,
Sti muntagni, sti vallati,
L' ha criati la natura
Pri li cori inamurati.

Lu susurru di li frundi
Di lu sciumi lu lamentu
L'aria, l' ecu chi rispundi,
Tuttu spira sentimentu.

Dda farfalla, accussì vaga;
Lu muggitu di li tori;
L' innocenza, chi vi appaga;
Tutti parranu a lu cori.

Stu frischettu insinuanti
Chiudi un gruppu di piaciri,
Accarizza l' alma amanti;
E ci arrobba li suspiri.

Coa l' armuzza li soi porti
Apri tutti a lu dilettu,
Sulu è indignu di sta sorti,
Chi nun chiudi amuri impettu.

Damon sings.

This silence, this verdure,
These mountains, these vales,
Nature has created them
For hearts that are in love.

The rustling of the leaves,
The lament of the river,
The air, and echo who answers,
All inspire sentiment.

That butterfly, so beautiful;
The lowing of the cattle;
Innocence, that is doubtless;
All speak to the heart.

This insinuating cool zephyr
Encloses a group of pleasures;
It fondles a loving soul,
And steals away our sighs.

Here the soul opens
All its avenues to delight;
Only he is unworthy of this fate,
Who has not love in his bosom.

Sulu è reu chi po guardari
Duru e immobili sta scena,
Ma lu stissu nun amari,
E` delitto insemi e pena.

Only he is criminal who can look
Hard and immovable upon this scene;
But the not loving, is in itself
Both crime and punishment.

Donna bella, senza amuri,
E` una rosa fatta in cira;
Senza vezzi, senza oduri,
Chi nun veggeta, ne spira.

A handsome woman, devoid of love,
Is a rose made of wax;
Without charms, without perfume,
It neither vegetates nor breathes.

Tu nun parri, o Dori mia,
Stu silenziu mi spaventa;
E` possibili, ch' in tia
Qualch' affettu nun si senti?

Thou dost not speak, oh my Dora,
This silence alarms me;
Is it possible that in thee
Some affection is not felt?

O chi l' alma, imbriacata
Di la duci voluttai,
Dintra un estasi biata
Li soi sensi a confinati?

Or is it that thy soul, inebriated
With sweep voluptuousness,
In a blest ecstasy
Has confined all its senses?

Lu to cori senza focu
Comu cridiri purria,
Si guardannati pri pocu,
Vennu vampi all' alma mia?

Thy heart without fire,
How could I believe it;
If, in gazing at thee a moment,
Flames rushed to my soul?

Vampi, oimè! chi l' occhiu esala;
Ch' eu li vivu, ch' eu l' anelu,
Comu vivi la cicala,
La ruggiada di lu celu.

Flames, oh me! that the eye exhales—
That I drink, that I inhale,
As lives the grasshopper
Upon the dews of heaven.

Sti toi languidi pupiddi
Mi convincinu abbastanza
Chi l' amuri parra in iddi;
Chi c' è focu in abbundanza.

Those languid pupils of thine
Convince me sufficiently
That love speaks in them,
That there is fire in abundance.

Oh chi fussiru in concertu
L' occhi toi cu li labbruzzi!
Oh nni fussi fattu certu
Cu paroli almenu muzzi!

Oh that thy lips
Were in concert with thine eyes.
Oh, were I assured of it,
Though only by syllables!

Fussi almenu stu gentili
  Grazziusu to russuri
Testimoniu fidili
  Veru interpreti d' amuri.

Were at least that soft
  Becoming blush of thine
A faithful witness,
  A true interpreter of love.

Dimmi; forsi fa paura
  A lu cori to severu
Un affettu di natura?
  Un amuri finu, e veru?

Tell me; is thy severe heart,
  Perhaps, startled
At an impulse of nature?
  A pure and true love?

Ah! mia cara pasturedda,
  Li dei giusti, ed immortali,
T' avirrianu fattu bedda,
  Si l' amuri fussi un mali?

Ah! my dear shepherdess,
  Would the just and immortal gods
Have bestowed on you beauty,
  If love were an evil?

E` l' amuri un puru raggiu
  Chi lu celu fa scappari;
E ch' avviva pri viaggiu,
  Suli, luna, terra, e mari.

Love is a pure ray
  Emanated from heaven,
That gives life on its way
  To sun, moon, earth, and sea.

Iddu duna a li suspiri
  La ducizza chiù esquisita,
Ed aspergi di piaciri
  Li miserii di la vita.

It confers on sighs
  The most exquisite sweetness,
And strews with pleasures
  The miseries of life.

Mugghia l' aria; e a so dispettu,
  Lu pasturi a li capanni
Strinci a se l' amatu oggettu,
  E si scorda di l' affanni.

The sky lowers; in spite of it
  The shepherd in his cottage
Presses his beloved object to him,
  And forgets his misfortunes.

Quann' unitu a lu Liuni
  Febbu tuttu sicca, ed ardi;
Lu pasturi 'ntra un macchiuni
  Pasci l' alma cu li sguardi.

When combined with Leo,
  Phœbus parches up all things;
The shepherd under a coppice
  Feeds his soul upon glances.

Quannu tutti l' elementi
  Poi cospiranu a favuri;
Oh che amabili momenti!
  Oh delizii d' amuri!

But when all the elements
  Conspire in favour;
Oh what ravishing moments!
  Oh the delights of love!

Quannu provi la ducizza
Di dui cori amanti, amati,
Chiancirai l' insipidizza
Di li tempi gia passati.

When you know the sweet bliss
Of two amorous hearts beloved,
You will weep the insipidity
Of the time that has fled.

Esti pianti, e sti sci uriddi
Che pri tia su stati muti
A lu cori ogn' unu d' iddi
Ti dirrà: jorna, e saluti.

For these plants, and these flow'rets,
That to thee have seem'd dumb,
Will each exclaim to thy heart,—
Hail to thy new life!

Ch' a lu focu di l' affetti
Ogn' irvuzza chiacchiaria;
Un commerciu di diletti
S' aprirà ntra d' iddi e tia.

For to the flame of the affections
Every blade of grass is eloquent;
An interchange of pleasure
Will be opened between them and thee.

Credi, o Clori, miu cunfortu,
A sta liggi chiu suprema,
Ah nun fari stu gran tortu
A la tua biddizza estrema!

Cede, oh Dora, my comfort
To this supreme law;
Do not be unjust
To thy extreme beauty!

Si spusassi cu l'amuri
Di natura ssi tesori
L' anni virdi, ed immaturi
Ti dirrevanu a lu cori:

If thou wouldst unite love
To those treasures of nature,
Thy green and immature years
Would say to thy heart:

Godi, o Dori, e fa gudiri
Stu momentu, chi t' è datu:
Nun è nostru l' avveniri;
E pirdutu lu passatu.

Enjoy, oh Dora, and let enjoy
This moment, that is given thee;
The future is not ours;
And the past is lost.

Drama.—The drama, though originally fostered in Sicily, has fallen into disuse, and in its true dignity is almost unknown. Public attention is devoted to its successful rival, the opera, an extravagant and puerile amusement, which while it relates an intrigue, or a tale of fancy, may inspire pleasure by its impassioned airs; but when it affects historical subjects, and introduces frivolous heroes, with a drawling recitative, or a screaming bravura, in addition to anachronisms of dress and scenery, and the intrusive

presence of a noisy prompter, illusion must naturally be destroyed and contempt excited. In fact, the merits of an opera are confined to the music and language, for though the sense is monotonous and bombastical, there is a peculiar phraseology used by composers, the true Nugæ Canoræ of Horace, that renders the songs harmonious and sonorous; their theatrical singing is more the result of system and mechanical efforts, than of natural impressions, or expressions of the dignified animation of the soul.

The best theatres are too spacious, every sacrifice being made of convenience to extent, so that ballets and shewy spectacles are best adapted to their boards. These representations are often well imagined and fascinating, though, from the same being repeated almost every evening for six weeks or two months, they tire the audience. Attention, after the first night of a performance, is not a trait of the character of the Sicilian amateurs, as they make the theatre a rendezvous, where they receive and pay visits, take coffee and ices, and even play at cards.

Public amusements are very cheap, and the custom of dividing the pit, so that each spectator sits in a kind of armed chair, effectually prevents the audience from being too much crowded. The theatres being illuminated only on great festivals, there prevails in general a sombre effect; the more so, because the boxes being all private, those only who choose, light up one or two candles, which are placed at the back of the box, so as to throw light only on the occupiers of it, tending very little to improve the general effect. There are no galleries for the reception of the lower orders, nor have they permission to enter the pit, though the back of it is often crowded with the servants of those in the boxes. Detachments of soldiers attend in all the theatres, and sentinels are placed not only on the stage, but in various parts of the house. Even private families apply for sentinels, when they give large entertainments; in short, the police being very deficient, the aid of the military is resorted to on all occasions.

The pleasing operas of Metastasio, set to music by Cimarosa and Paisiello, and the comedies, or rather farces, of Chiari, Algarotti, and the prolific Goldoni, as well as translations from Kotzebue, are sometimes performed; but the most popular pieces, besides frequent improper allusions, spoil the actors for written performances, by admitting of a great deal of extempore amplification and latitude in language. In the class of comic actors, resembling the atellanæ or mimes of the ancients, a Sicilian called Lapanio, who has a small summer theatre at Palermo, eclipses all competitors; and in the happiest vein of humour, lashes the singularities of his countrymen, in their truly Doric dialect, to crowded audiences, in whom even his significant looks alone, are sufficient to excite peals of laughter.

The actors in general are better adapted for peculiar imitations of manner, than lofty conceptions of character: nothing more, however, can reasonably be expected, as there is little encouragement given to the profession; and at their benefits, they are obliged to submit to the degrading habit of going round, and presenting a plate to each of the spectators, to receive their contributions. The singers are usually more liberally rewarded, and next to them, the first dancers, or "primi ballarini," whose efforts are seldom pleasing; for though the false taste that reigns even in the larger theatres of Europe with regard to ballets, has made many proselytes, it will be readily conceived that poor, and in many respects caricatured, imitations, are not to be endured. Burlettas, and burlesque dances, though nonsensical, vulgar, and obscene, not only delight the citizens, but those also of the higher ranks; and I have observed many of their most exalted characters in ecstacies at the vulgar indecencies of buffoons.

Amusements.—Music is not so universal an accomplishment in these southern regions as it is usually imagined to be; for that eager desire that prevails in England for excelling in an acquirement comparatively so insignificant, to the neglect of nobler pursuits,

is here restricted to professional people. Their compositions are generally too redundant, compass and execution being more attended to than melody. The guitar is the favourite instrument; and the lower orders are very partial to serenades, in which they sing airs that are often more characteristic than either their theatrical or sacred music. The songs in the Sicilian dialect, though sometimes of a filthy description, are otherwise sprightly and pleasing; and several of their dances, as the "barubba," and the "tarantella," display some fanciful figures, pleasing changes, and animated evolutions, accompanied by the castanets or a peculiar snapping of the fingers; degraded, however, by indecent postures. The "barubba" is also called the "Jana tuba," and is peculiar to the season of carnival; those who dance it are strangely dressed, have their faces painted, and exhibit all sorts of contortions, imitating savages, to the sound of the drum and trumpet-shell, or "tuba;" in this will immediately be recognised the feast of Janus, which was also celebrated in the winter. The waltz is a great favourite in certain circles; notwithstanding which, I must agree with honest Goëthe the German, that none but husband and wife can, with any propriety, be partners in this dance.

The peasants are fond of noisy instruments; and, on many of their festivals, it is not unusual to hear ten or twenty tambourines beating the "tarantella" together, accompanied by violins, guitars, and "mandolini," a kind of small guitar, strung with wire, and played with a quill. They produce very melodious airs on rustic flutes made of reeds; and the mountaineers, who are tolerably expert players on the bagpipes, accompanied by a kind of flageolet called "ciaramela," parade the streets for nine days before Christmas, playing to every image of the Virgin and Child they meet with, and are even called into the houses, by the devout, to propitiate their respective idols, corresponding to the lares, or household-gods of the ancients.

Gambling extends its pernicious influence over all classes of society, and is the chief amusement of both sexes, in every town and village; though numbers of its victims are continually reduced by it, from affluence and respectability, to ruin, disgrace, and derision. The games most general, and on which the greatest sums are risked, are "macao," "riversino," "bassetta" or "faro," and "rouge et noir," in which latter I have, at public conversazioni, seen noblemen in all their decorations, and peeresses of the highest rank, engaged with degrading avidity, and continue their baneful pursuits until the morning. Petty gambling, and cheap public lotteries, are established in all parts of the island, and every art of superstition is practised to obtain lucky numbers in the latter; the tickets of which are drawn by an orphan, who is previously blessed by a priest, and decorated with various amulets, of high interest to the anxious mob assembled.

Among the few rural amusements of the Sicilians, may be enumerated hunting, shooting, and fishing; the practice of each, however, if we except the "roccolo," or taking of birds by a decoy and nets, is greatly inferior to our acceptation of the terms. Besides the game usual in England, red-legged partridges, and the delicate "francolini," are in great request; but their sportsmen are too severe on songsters, that race being nearly extinct, except in the wilds of the large forests. They place a high value on English horses and dogs; the latter, however, always degenerate, from their instruction being neglected, and the horses are broke in and trained with great cruelty. The chase of the wild boar, the wolf, and the fox, is conducted with some spirit; and as those animals, on account of their immoderate fondness for grapes, occasion considerable damage to the vineyards, they would, no doubt, soon be exterminated, were it not for the baronial and royal preserves. Hares, as in the time of Arrian, are frequently beat for among a high close grass, called "jazzu," but coursing is very uncommon. Par-

tridges and plovers are decoyed by the call. Birds of passage are in great number and variety, and afford infinite sport. Quails are abundant during April, May, and September; wild ducks, cranes, geese, and swans, are shot from November to March; larks are in great number in April and May, September and October; fieldfares abound in October and November; and the delicious "motacilla ficedula," or "beccafico," is taken from March to September.

There are also horse and carriage races, and various athletic games, of which that requiring the greatest exertion is the "pallone," in which a leathern ball about a foot in diameter, filled with air, is thrown backwards and forwards between two parties of men, each having one arm furnished with a kind of shield made of hard wood called "bracciale," instead of a bat, and the utmost dexterity is used in preventing the ball from falling, as every time this happens, a mark is stuck into the ground. This is but the first part of the game, for then the parties change places, and standing in front of their respective marks, or "caccie," endeavour to defend them from the ball of their adversaries. Another popular amusement used to be the "cuccagna," a pyramid formed of boards, or a lofty pole made smooth and greasy, hung round the summit with provisions, and apparel, which were the reward of those who possessed agility enough to climb up and reach them,—an enterprise attended with many awkward falls. This was generally the conclusion of great festivals, and the signal of attack was given by the lord of the manor; but owing to the frequent quarrels that ensued, it has grown gradually into disuse, and, as a substitute for it, a butt of mixed wine and water is introduced, to which the crowd help themselves gratis; still under the old name of the "cuccagna." The noisy Roman game called "micare digitis," is in great repute with the common people, under the name of "morra," and is played by two persons alternately clenching the fist and extending the fingers, the united number of which is to be instantaneously

guessed at by each other. The more domestic sports are, forfeits of various kinds, blind-man's buff, and cross-purposes. The Sunday is a day of general recreation, but not held sacred either in public or in private; for it is then that, after the short service of mass, they have most recourse to amusements of every kind, and even all the theatres are open.

Disposition.—Good fellowship prevails at most of their pastimes; but notwithstanding a generally cheerful disposition, the Sicilians are so violent and irritable, that they will not scruple, on an angry word, a trifling jealousy, or a drunken quarrel, to plunge into crime, and take the most summary and sanguinary revenge; a vice promoted, perhaps, by the mal-administration of justice. Unhappily, a murder may be committed in open day, and yet the assassin escape; because, from a superstitious fear, rather than an impulse of humanity, (for that ought to be directed to the sufferer,) no spectator will assist to apprehend him, under the plea that it is the duty of the police. As atrocities of this nature are not inserted in the gazettes, the public are not aware of their occurrence, and it is therefore difficult to ascertain the number of such tragical events; but, from many circumstances, I do not believe premeditated murders are very common in Sicily, although several atrocious and harrowing instances of this kind have come under my personal knowledge.

Festivals.—Gaudy spectacles of devotional pageantry, as in ancient days, occupy a very considerable share of public attention in Sicily. During such exhibitions, labour of all kinds is prohibited, and large sums are annually spent in fireworks, tinsel, and mummery, that could be so much better employed in charity and public undertakings. Such amusements have a tendency to desecrate and ridicule, rather than promote Christianity; for nothing can be more

profane and absurd, than the general celebration of Corpus Christi, the "presepj," (or representations of the Nativity, by puppets placed in appropriate scenery, often occupying a large room,) and other ceremonies of Christmas; as well as the peculiar festivals to tutelary saints in Palermo, Messina, Catania, Syracuse, Modica, Girgenti, and the other principal towns. The carnival appears to be the time, when the whole population shakes off restraint, and revels in a ludicrous mixture of superstitious devotion, intemperate uproar, and grotesque extravagance. This season of gaiety begins on the 18th of January, after the fête of St. Anthony, and lasts until the beginning of Lent; at Messina only, they wait till the 5th of February, the melancholy anniversary of the great earthquake in 1783, is over, many having vowed to observe that day ever after, in strict penance.

The politic Pope Benedict XIV., aware how such numerous holidays interfere with the avocations of the operative classes, and tend to the introduction of idleness, indigence, and consequent immorality, would gladly have abolished them all except the Sunday; this, however, by an opposite extreme would have deprived the populace of too large a portion of their recreations and useful pastimes, but a judicious medium would undoubtedly promote the general prosperity.

Religion.—From the holidays, the mind naturally, turns to the state of religion in this interesting country, particularly as so large a proportion of the population is consecrated to the celebration of its rites. Unversed in the subtilties of theologians, I am aware that some of my conclusions may be deemed erroneous, and my judgment misled; but my speculations, although fallible, have arisen from a long intercourse with the Sicilians, and in all theological arguments, so far from indulging protestant prepossessions, I have ever respected their scruples when honest, however differing from my own opinions. My object is rather to mark the innovations that have so widely separated churches, emanating from a common

primitive faith, than attempt to disparage the catholics; nor will I assert that many of their most absurd rites are reverenced by any but the lowest and most ignorant classes.

The established religion of Sicily is the Roman Catholic, which differs in one grand point from most of the protestant sects, by inculcating on its votaries that it is the manner of a man's death, rather than the actions of his life, on which his hopes and fears of futurity are to be founded. This, though not an established dogma, has a very general influence, and combined with the privilege of sanctuary, the practice of auricular confession, indulgence, and absolution, lessens the susceptibility of conscience, engenders scepticism and infidelity, and finally leads to the commission of many of the crimes that disgrace this island. Cicero, though a Pagan, has observed, "Maxima illecebra est peccandi immunitatis spes." The hope of sinning with impunity is the greatest incitement to guilt.

Character of the Clergy.—The dignitaries of the church have often proved themselves worthy of their high trust; and among their mitred benefactors, the Sicilians must ever record, with the warmest gratitude, the names of Testa, Alagona, Lucchesi, and Ventimiglia, as well for their beneficence through life, as for their magnificent bequests at their deaths. Some of the parochial clergy are intelligent and moral; but certainly too large a portion of them are slothful, illiterate, intolerant, presuming, and beggarly, and only preserve an influence among their parishioners by their artful management in family intrigues.

Religious Ceremonies.—Their celebration of church rites and ceremonies is externally imposing, though too often pharisaical, presenting an absurd association of spiriutal humility and temporal pride; yet the sprightly music of violins, flutes, and clarionets, the fragrance of incense, the noise of drums and bells, the firing of crackers and pateraroes, with the glittering pageantry of lights,

embroidery and tinsel, are certainly more calculated to affect the capacities, feelings, and prejudices of the uneducated vulgar, than our spiritual homage and solemn dirges; though, possibly, such enthusiasm partakes more of personal gratification than of sublime adoration. It must, nevertheless, in candour be admitted, even by the most rigid Protestant, however he may condemn the doctrine, that the elevation of the host is a solemnity very much in unison with devotional feeling, and a spectacle that few can view without correspondent emotions.

As the bell tolls for evening prayers, every one is saluted with Ave-Maria, a rational and pleasing instance of affectionate piety, which though a Catholic custom, must be gratifying even to Protestants; at the same moment, all who have not time to kneel down and unite in prayer, still repeat a short hymn in an under tone.

Preaching.—The language of the most popular preachers is chiefly Sicilian, interspersed with frequent Latin quotations from the Scriptures. I witnessed one of the favourite pastors who, with a black cross suspended round his neck and stuck in his girdle, was extremely vehement both in gesture and tone; frequently breaking out into affectionate apostrophes to a large crucifix in the side of the pulpit, until by degrees his congregation (consisting chiefly of females) began to sob violently. He represented our Saviour as an anxious shepherd, who, on missing one lamb out of a hundred, scrambled over rocks, ran down precipices, leaped over ravines, and left nothing untried to recover it; being at last successful, he desired the angels to rejoice "e perchè?" "Why," inquired the sacred choir, "because," replied the Redeemer, "aju truvatu la mia cara pecuredda!" I have recovered my dear lamb!

Celibacy of the Clergy.—The celibacy to which the clergy, both regular and irregular, are condemned, must occasion sad inroads

on integrity, morals, and decorum, especially as from being dispensers of the sacred wafer, they are beyond the pale of secular jurisdiction, and cannot, in general, be supposed to restrain the natural lubricity arising from want of employment, when assisted by the free access afforded them, under the cloak of religion, to women of not the most rigid virtue. It has even been remarked by some of their jocular wits, as well as by the chaplain of one of the Dukes of Norfolk, that prohibiting priests from having wives, is not prohibiting wives from having priests.

Nuns.—The seclusion of the females, who, from parental bigotry or avarice, are shut up in the numerous nunneries with which every large city abounds, may be here noticed. They are more liberally treated in Sicily than elsewhere, being allowed country-seats, and latticed balconies in the principal streets, communicating with their convents, for the purpose of witnessing festivals and processions; yet, in spite of every indulgence, this life of melancholy monotony frequently brings on convulsions, palsies, and premature old age. The ceremony of a young lady taking the veil is solemnized about noon, previous to which all the friends and acquaintances invited, assemble in the " parlatorio," or parlour of the convent, where ices, coffee, and other refreshments are provided, while the victim, attired in all the gaiety of the newest fashions, appears at the inner door to receive the congratulations of the company on her happy and laudable turn of mind. The party then adjourn to the church, where high mass is celebrated, during which the devoted girl appears at an open window breast high, near the great altar, generally with a vacant smile on her countenance, accompanied by the abbess and some old nuns, who after the sacrament, supposed to unite her to our Redeemer, has been administered to her by the bishop, publicly tear away the jewels and ornaments with which she is decorated, and cut her hair short behind; then taking her aside

A Capuchin Monk. *A Nun of Santa Teresa.* *A Monk of Grazia Convent.* *A Nobleman in procession.* *Monks in procession.*

RELIGIOUS COSTUME OF SICILY.

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for a moment, reproduce her amidst the deafening clamour of pateraroes, bells, and a noisy orchestra, in the sacred habiliments of a novice, which, from the bad taste and profusion of the previous finery, seemed to become all those that I saw undergo the metamorphosis better than the modish dress. If, at the expiration of a year, the young lady has not changed her mind, she is confirmed a nun by a nearly similar ceremony; the principal difference being, that she then only changes the coloured veil of a novice for the black one of a nun, and is laid under a pall, while the burial service is read over her, as being dead to this world.

Greeks.—A few Greeks remain in various parts of Sicily, of whom the largest establishment is at the "Piano de' Greci," in the vicinity of Palermo. They are tolerated in the exercise of their religion, but as they are less severe in their Lent ordinances than their brethren to the eastward, they do not in some essentials differ so much as them from the Roman Catholics. Their rites present objects tangible and visible: they equally use the symbol of the cross, and worship saints; they practise confession; they disbelieve the doctrine of purgatory; and though they respect paintings, will not suffer images: they use bread and wine in the communion, but believe in its transubstantiation at the moment only in which they receive it. They will neither kneel at the elevation of the host; allow of the co-equality of the tritheistical union; nor of the unfitness of a married man to take holy orders, although a man is not permitted to marry after he has devoted himself to the church, and its higher dignities are not granted to married men. The prayers and forms of worship are very numerous, and the ordinances are severe; but genuflexion takes place only once a year, and that on Whitsunday, at which time, lights and incense are burnt on the sepulchres of relations.

Religious Institutions.—Monasteries and religious institutions

were introduced into the island by Gregory the Great, in the fifth century, and were nearly destroyed by the Saracens; but having been re-established by Count Roger, with every encouraging circumstance, they greatly increased, and are now excessively numerous, and, from possessing great landed property, perhaps engross more of the population and riches of the country than is compatible with sound policy.

The ascetics are divided into two classes, the monks and the friars. The former consist of the Benedictines, Celestines, Bernardins, Carthusians, and some others; the members of which, but particularly of the first, are usually younger branches of noble and rich houses, compelled to take the vows, either to extinguish their patrimonial claims, or to indulge the superstition of weak parents, many of whom, by such a measure, seek to propitiate Heaven in behalf of their own ill-spent lives. As these orders bestow great largesses in charity, and are generally indulgent masters to their tenants, the magnificence and luxury of their establishments may be viewed with less severity; though the time of the young men is sadly mispent, for instead of improving their natural gifts by the opportunity presented to them in their splendid libraries, they content themselves with scholastic disquisitions, and miraculous legends, drawn from such sources as St. Ambrose, Theodoret, Abdias, and the Bolandists. Even the several orders are at variance on casuistical topics, and the never-failing themes of grace efficient, and grace sufficient, with the mists of the maculate or immaculate conception, always afford them ample matter for syllogistical wrangling. Owing to this perversion of talent, though they have borne the ostensible credit of having been the preservers, I will not say, cultivators of the arts and sciences, the monastic institutions in Sicily have rarely produced a distinguished mathematician, painter, or poet.

The Jesuits, indeed, are an exception to the remarks made on the

other orders, for notwithstanding their alleged numerous obliquities, their mysterious political relations, and their strenuous support of papal influence, their institution was the most active, learned, and comprehensive of all the catholic establishments. They have been reinstated several years in Sicily, and as they are superintending the education of some hundreds of youths, it is to be hoped they will never practise those mischievous intrigues, the imputation of which occasioned their downfall, and there is little doubt but the country will then derive great benefit from their talents.

Confraternities are established in most of the great cities, the professed objects of which are to relieve the imprisoned, comfort the sick, and succour the distressed; for which purpose, on all public occasions, they solicit charity of the passers by, often frightfully disguised with a white mantle entirely enveloping them, with only two holes for their eyes, a crown of thorns on their head, and a rope round their middle. Many of the clergy also, who attend particular oratories, or that assist in the education of youth, congregate together, and observe the various obligations of monachism, without taking the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience; these communities bear the several names of the holy cross, of redemption, and of St. Filippo Nero, with the Hieronomites, the Theatines, and some minor companies.

The Dominicans, Franciscans*, Carmelites, Augustines, Capuchins, Minorets, and others of the mendicant societies, are a race who, by their devotional zeal and capricious penances, seem to hold, that a scrupulous observance of their ritual is as conducive to salvation, as the purest practice of morality. In strict convents the regulations are very severe, particularly towards the acolytes and lay-brothers, whose office it is to clean the church, cultivate the gardens, and go on begging-errands to the towns; for though most of these

* Capuchins, Recollects, and Cordeliers, are all of the order of St. Francis, though differing essentially in ordinances, and in habits.

establishments possess land, and gain profit by masses, they receive voluntary contributions of every kind of food.

Some few of the friars alleviate affliction, and soothe the pangs of sorrow with a compassionate and unwearied attention; some visit the sick in hospitals and prisons, and others practise various branches of useful ingenuity: but from such as compose the mass, even allowing them to lead a harmless life, what talent, knowledge, or theology can be expected? Yet this is the class that, by the various devices of relics, amulets, and confession, acquires an influence over the lower orders, draws them into superstitious worship, and fans the dying embers of religious animosity. Many of those in the small and less strict confraternities are even absolutely drones, taken from the dregs of the people, who being too lazy to work, by embracing an order, become licensed to prey upon the public, and extort the hard earnings of the peasant. These are the bigots, who bring contempt on the whole system; and habitual disrespect for ecclesiastics must have a pernicious effect on the morals of a people. In their defence it has been asserted, that these men, being plebeians, have been serviceable to the friends of order, in quelling popular tumults; but the same influence may be directed to stir up commotion, and it is not the least part of the opprobrium attached to them, that they readily engage themselves to form a part of the espionage of the police, where, under the colour of sanctity, they can be more mischievous than any other agents.

There is another class equally as ignorant as the friars, but poorer and more absurd, called hermits and anachorets, who pretending to despise the laxity of the cenobites, inhabit small caverns or hovels among the mountains, with a view of indulging in unsocial fanaticism, apathy, and self-denial. Their vacant lives pass in indolence and filth, their habits being more those of swine than of human beings; and, in their unnatural indifference, they seem to imagine that all those acts which are most disgusting to mankind, are most acceptable

to the Supreme Being, or at least to their tutelar saint; each devotee, like the pagans of yore, paying his adoration to the one of his own choice.

Analogies.—On this head it is curious to observe, in Sicily more than elsewhere, the striking analogy apparent in the mysteries of Pagan and Roman Catholic polytheism; the external observances of which, in representing sacred objects to the senses by human, rather than by divine attributes, are alike destitute of true sublimity, and exhibit alternately a degrading ecclesiastical influence, popular superstition, and a sensualizing ritual, instead of real piety.

It is a glaring fact, that the two first commands of the Divine Decalogue are virtually rejected by the Roman Catholics, for several Pagan heroes have been canonized, and statues of heathen gods are daily adored as saints under other names, with the reputation of working miracles. The numerous images and pictures of the Virgin and Child appear but substitutes for those of Venus and Cupid; and what is yet more strange, many paintings represent the former standing on a crescent, the peculiar emblem of chastity among the heathens.

The idolatrous worship of the Virgin has almost superseded that of the Almighty himself, and greater reliance is placed on her mediation than on any other. Indeed, according to the monstrous legends of the priests, it would appear that, by her courteous attendance to the meanest of her votaries, she is fully entitled to their gratitude. Among other absurdities, she is publicly represented, in sculpture, in Palermo, leaning on the clouds, and squeezing milk from her breasts into the gaping mouth of St. Allan, who is on his knees below to receive it.

Imploring saints and guardian angels is but a revival of appeals to Penates, Genii, Junones, and the gods of the Lararium; and the Pagan worship of the Sicelides is replaced by that of the army of Virgins.

Confraternities, cryptic worship, changing of sacred vestments, and processions; sanctuary, tonsure, and burning incense; lustral water, philacteries, sacred lamps, and votive offerings, with the custom of decorating paintings and statues with garlands, rings, necklaces, ribands, and the nimbus, are all decidedly Pagan. The appellations of Ammon, Stator, Pistor, Pater, Olympius, Ultor, Tonans, and similar agnomens, are not only imitated in Stemmata, del Carmine, Sette dolori, Addolorata, del Pianto, &c., but St. Mercurio and Santa Venera have actually resumed a station in public churches, and most of the saints are supposed to possess some peculiar influence; as, for example, St. Placido presides over those possessed by an evil spirit; St. Lazzaro, over the diseased; St. Antonio, over horses; Santa Barbara, over fire; Santa Lucia over the sight, &c.

Let us compare this system of idolatry and its canon, with the express precepts of Holy Writ, and we cannot but deplore the monstrous innovations on the beautiful simplicity of Gospel worship.

DECALOGUE.	TWELVE TABLES.
Thou shalt have none other gods but me. —Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth.	Honour the gods of the heavens, not only those who have always been esteemed such, but those likewise whose merit has raised them thither, as Hercules, Bacchus, Æsculapius, Castor, Pollux, and Romulus.

As obvious a similitude is observable in the numerous festivals of the Catholic church. The Rogation ceremony corresponds in many respects with the rites of Terminus; for while the former consisted of prayers for a blessing on the fruits of the earth, the purpose of the latter was to fix beyond dispute the boundaries of their land, that so they might enjoy without contest, in the fruits of the opening spring, the reward of the labour they had bestowed on the earth. Candlemas, in which the offering of wax-candles, or torches, forms so conspicuous a feature, occurs within a few days of the time when the Romans also bore torches in procession to Juno Februa, and both are

equally connected with the churching of women. The Carnival is a species of Anthesteria, or Cotyttia; and as, in the latter, people delighted in carrying about branches of trees hung with fruit and sweetmeats, to which every body was welcome, so every one that masks provides himself with a basket of cakes and sweetmeats to present to all he meets; the moderns, indeed, add a provision of large sugar-plums, wherewith to pelt every one they wish to notice. The Grand Jubilee is but another name for the secular games. While the Martinalia is a palpable substitute for the lesser Dionysia, by which St. Martin has succeeded to the devotion heretofore lavished on the jolly Bacchus.

In the worship of bones, and the kissing of relics, a kind of parallel may be found among the savages of North America; but, in their adoration of the Host, I believe the Roman Catholics are quite unique, and have thereby inspired the Turks with their contemptible idea of—"those dogs who make a god and eat him"—a species of superstition that Cicero had long before pronounced men incapable of committing.

Many of these remarks may appear severe, but they are, nevertheless, the result of actual observation, nor are they dictated by any unfriendly or intolerant feeling; but why should we shut our eyes to facts that stagger the well-informed Catholics themselves? I am aware the degradation is not equal, in the different countries where that faith is professed; and, it may be asserted, that the genuine principles of the Roman Catholic church neither recognise nor authorize these superstitions. If it be so, such fallacies should be corrected, and the pure practices and discipline of the primitive worship be restored in the various Christian churches. However innocent the intention may originally have been, of introducing relics, paintings, and statues, into their devotional exercises, it cannot be denied that, with numbers of the ignorant, who, of course, form the majority, they have become objects of actual

idolatry; and that the crucifixes, portraits of saints, and consecrated amulets, are preserved in families as well as in churches, with the same care and devotion as the tutelary Penates were wont to be by their Pagan ancestors.

Oratories on hills and road-side chapels were general long before the Christian era; and the devotion of nuns is not dissimilar to that of the vestal virgins, except, that the Romans, with more lenity, allowed to the latter the solace of domestic society on the expiration of thirty years; and, as they could be admitted at any age between six and sixteen, they were not always too old for marriage at the period of their emancipation.

The mystagogues of the past and the present age, in defiance of reason and common sense, elevated the dead to divine honours; the one by apotheosis, the other by canonization: while the Catholic purgatory is similar to the Pagan second mansion of the infernal regions, where the moral defilements of the soul were cleansed, previous to partaking of the happiness of Elysium.

Friday is still the "dies infaustus," and except the ominous thirteen at table, a preference remains for odd numbers, on the principle that those which are even, being reducible to equal portions, are symbols of division. The number three, formerly regarded as classing the celestial, terrestrial, and infernal gods; the judges of hell; the heads of Cerberus; the Heliades; the Harpies; the Sirens; the Gorgons; the Hesperides; and the Cyclops; the Furies; the Fates; and the Graces; is now viewed as the mystical type of the Trinity, as well as of matter, which has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

It is not, in religious observances alone, that these striking analogies are to be traced, for the modern, like the ancient Sicilians, are nervously apprehensive of the "scanto," or sudden impression of horror, disgust, or terror; and they are careful to utter an ejaculation on hearing a person sneeze. They have still their days of chalk and

charcoal, of good and bad fortune; and they bear so strong an antipathy to persons possessing what is called the evil eye, that they provide amulets against them, not only for themselves, but also for their animals. The aversion to celebrate marriages, or christenings, or to enter into contracts during the inauspicious month of May still exists; as does the custom of strewing flour or ashes at the threshold of their friend or foe on New Year's Eve. The right eye palpitating, denotes good fortune, as of yore; the spilling of salt, or placing a loaf bottom upwards, are deemed sacrilegious. Relics of objects struck by lightning, are valued as preservatives from similar events, and carefully preserved. Magistrates are highly respected, but the executioner, like the "carnifex" of the Romans, is an object of universal detestation, and is always a criminal, whose life has been spared on condition of his performing this repulsive office.

One of the most obstinate practices of the Sicilians is that of still adhering to the inaccurate Roman mode of calculating time, in defiance of the dictates of common sense, and the example of the rest of Europe. The civil-day commences at sunset, and their time-pieces are altered accordingly, computing, without subdivision, from one to twenty-four hours in succession, by which absurd method twenty o'clock occurs at half-past four in the afternoon in summer, and at one in winter. Thus they are compelled to alter their noon from time to time by the almanac, and it frequently happens that the several members of a family have their watches going to different noons. Besides this inconvenience, the church clock strikes only from one to six hours, repeating the number four times a day, and is therefore of little utility to strangers.

CHAPTER III.

Detail of the North Coast of Sicily; Segesta, Carini, Palermo, Monreale, Bagaria, Termini, Cefalù, Caronia, Patti, Tyndaris, Milazzo, and Spadafora.

THE north coast of Sicily presents a steep aspect, and there exist scarcely any hidden dangers to seamen. The most prevalent winds are from the south-west to the north-west, and they are generally preceded by a long swell, which rises with their increase. The tides set to the eastward, but do not appear to be influenced so much by the moon, as by the weather, and seldom rise or fall more than twenty inches.

CAPE ST. VITO.—The usual landfall, when coming from the westward, is Cape St. Vito; a rugged mount with two tabled points running from it, the westernmost of which is called Agira, the easternmost Sireno; and in the bight between them there is anchorage for small vessels near the church of St. Vito, protected by two stout square towers. Similar towers are erected on commanding points, and defiladed on the land side, at regular distances, all round the shores of Sicily: the purpose for which they were intended was, that, on the appearance of a vessel, the peasantry should repair to the guns mounted in them, in order to prevent smuggling, to succour a friend, or to annoy an enemy. They are, however, from disuse, greatly neglected, and poorly provided, and inhabited generally by only two or three countrymen, who act rather as guards for the Health-office, than as soldiers. Beacons are always ready to be

The Temple of Segesta.

View on the Parco road near Palermo.

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lighted, and the alarm along the coast is sounded with conch-shells, similar to the tuba of the Romans.

Castell' a Mare.—At the bottom of this gulf, in a finely-cultivated neighbourhood, abundantly productive of all the necessaries of life, is situated Castell' a Mare; a mean dirty town of about five thousand inhabitants, who subsist by exporting the produce of the surrounding country, of which wine, fruit, grain, manna, and shumac, form the principal articles. The castle, erected on a rocky tongue of land, and never strong, is falling fast to decay, while the road leading from the cove to it, is so filthy and narrow, as to be even dangerous at night.

Ægesta.—At a short distance from Castell' a Mare are the interesting remains of a Doric temple, which, with vestiges of an ancient theatre, a little to the northward, are the only relics of Ægesta, the acrimonious foe of Selinus, and the fomenter of two of the most memorable wars that ever desolated Sicily. They stand in a bleak, deserted, sterile situation, to the eastward of the boundary of the ancient city, and the only resting-place for the traveller is the shade of a neighbouring fig-tree, where there is a good spring of fresh water; the scenery and stillness, however, make it appear wild, grand, and impressive.

The temple is built of a marine concretion, and from the unequal shape of some of the shafts, the want of a cella, and the form of some projecting stones, is supposed to have remained unfinished. It is, notwithstanding, almost entire, the stylobate, frieze, and architrave, are perfect, and none of the interior is deficient; a few stones of the entablature only are wanting. The columns are curious from being without flutings, although of the Doric order, and suddenly diminishing at both ends in a kind of groove, supposed to have been for the reception of the bronze astragal and torus. The intercolumniations

are rather irregular, and at several of them the plinth is cut through for facilitating the entrance to the temple, so that the columns appear to rest on pedestals. On the whole, though of later date than those of Girgenti, it forms a singular and valuable architectural relic.

Ægesta was built by the Trojans, at the conflux of two streams, which, in memorial of those in their native country, they called Simoes and Scamander; and shortly afterwards, some distressed Phocenses returning from the siege of Troy, were driven by a series of tempests, on the coasts already occupied by their enemies; but by whom, in consequence of their common disasters, they were hospitably received, and became incorporated with them. The city derived its name from Ægestus, the companion of Elymus, and its territories were divided from those of Selinus by a small river, which the Selinuntines crossed, and then seized on the adjacent lands. In their attempts to recover them, the Ægestans received a severe defeat, and being unable to procure succour in the island, they implored assistance of the Athenians; who, having long watched for an opportunity of interfering among these states, readily hearkened to the request. They considered it prudent, however, previously to despatch deputies, to inspect the means of the Ægestans, and report on their public affairs in general. On their arrival, the citizens having borrowed many gold and silver vases, and various other valuable articles for the occasion, made so splendid a display, that the deluded Athenians willingly fitted out the memorable expedition under Nicias, Lamachus, and Alcibiades. On the arrival of these generals, the imposition was quickly detected, for only thirty talents were found in the treasury, as indeed the politic Nicias had always expected. That officer, although thus disconcerted, proceeded to forward the views of his ambitious country, until disease and defeat terminated the career of this luckless expedition.

After the defeat of the Athenians, the Selinuntines repeated their encroachments; on which the Ægestans, reduced to despair, made a

tender of their city to the Carthaginians; who, after some debates, sent Hannibal, the descendant of that Hamilcar who had been killed at Himera, to fight their battles; which soon caused the destruction of Selinus, Himera, and Agrigentum.

A miserable fate awaited the Ægestans at the hands of the sanguinary Agathocles, tyrant of Syracuse; for, on account of some cabals, excited by his own extortions, he drove the populace out of the town, and cut their throats on the banks of the Scamander, into which he threw the expiring bodies. The rich he put to the severest tortures; some were broiled on a brazen bed, and many were shot away like missiles from his battering engines. The ancle-bones of the females suspected of concealing treasures, were broken with iron pincers; others had their breasts cut off; and, to complete the brutality of the tragedy, heavy bricks were heaped on the loins of pregnant women until the premature birth of the offspring was effected. Thus Ægesta, adds the historian, in one black and doleful day, had the flower and prime of her youth cut off. The fate of the monster, Agathocles, who caused the desolation of so many cities, seems, however, a marked dispensation of Providence; for being poisoned with a toothpick, given him by a minion of his depravity, his gums mortified with violent bodily agony, and in the very height of his sufferings, Oxythemes, a Macedonian general, hurried him to the funeral pile, and burnt him while he was yet alive, but unable to speak from the foulness and corruption of his mouth *.

The city, in process of time, recovered from this disaster, and had again attained a flourishing condition on the arrival of the Romans, who, not liking the name, (expressing want,) altered it to Segesta; and it shared the fate of their other possessions in Sicily, until it was finally destroyed by the Saracens.

Carini.—At the bottom of a bay, on the banks of the rivulet

* Diod. Sic. Ecl. ex Lib. xxi.

that waters the luxuriant vale of Carini, stood the small but rich city of Hyccara, the sacking of which was almost the only successful exploit of the unhappy Nicias; and the famed Laïs, who was there captured, was his most celebrated prize. On a rising ground, near the ancient site, stands the respectable and clean town of Carini, in a beautiful situation, ornamented with a Gothic castle, several churches, convents, and public buildings. It gives the title of Prince to the Spanish family of La Grua.

Femina Island, under Cape di Gallo, is the eastern extreme of Carini Bay; it is a small rock, rather steep at the north end, where stands a strong tower of defence, remarkable for being the place on which Cottisona, one of the many impostors who personated Don Sebastian of Portugal, was executed as a sorcerer in the sixteenth century. There are several caverns in Monte di Gallo, inhabited by some healthy goatherds, who have but little communication with the valley below.

Palermo.—On rounding Cape di Gallo, the beautiful gulf of Palermo, five miles in depth, opens to view; with tunny fisheries at the most favourable points along the shore, the nets of which must be carefully avoided by seamen; for they are so strong and well moored, as to be capable of suddenly arresting a ship under full sail. At the upper end of the gulf stands Mount Pellegrino, of a singularly picturesque form; and interesting, from being the spot where Hamilcar Barcas once made a noble stand against the Romans.

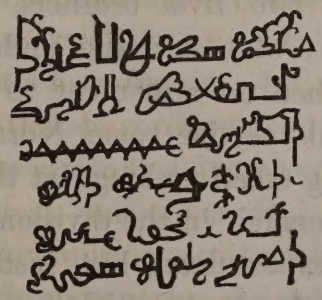
To the north-west of the city of Palermo is a fine mole running out from the arsenal, nearly a quarter of a mile into nine and ten fathoms water, with a light-house and battery at its termination. This light, in common with all the others in Sicily, is very defective, but the whole is a noble and spirited undertaking, which cost the senate nearly a million sterling, and forms a convenient port capable of containing a great number of vessels.

Besides this port, there is a small cove in front of the town, called Cala Felice, the only remains of its two celebrated ancient harbours, the sites of which are still to be traced among the streets of the city.

The Pratique Office is on the east side of the Cala Felice, and the usual landing-place is at the steps close to it. The Lazzaretto, a dirty and inefficient establishment, is in a rocky bay, called Acqua Santa, at the back of the Mole, under Mount Pellegrino, and near the elegant palace of Prince Belmonte.

Opposite the central part of the Marina, or Strand, there is a shoal, which, from its situation, size, materials, and form, I think must have been created, by silt and mud progressively accumulating over the hull of one of the ships sunk in the sanguinary conflict that took place here, after the death of De Ruyter, in 1676.

The native historians would fain trace the foundation of Panormus to the immediate descendants of Noah, and labour to establish the fact from obscure inscriptions, wilfully perverted. Among the principal objects of dispute were some ancient characters on the tower of Baych, and the following well-known tablet, until a fac-simile was sent to Olaus Gherardus Tychsen, a man very learned in eastern languages, who pronounced them to be Cuphic, expressing at the beginning a sentence of the Koran often quoted by the Saracens—"Non est Deus," &c., and ending with the date of 331 of the Hegira, corresponding to the year of our Lord 942.



Panormus, though one of the principal stations of the Phœnicians and Carthaginians, was only a secondary city in the annals of Sicily, until the commotions which preceded the fall of Rome; when the fierce Genseric, having conquered Africa, whilst Attila was desolating Europe with fire and sword, fitted out an expedition from Tunis, attacked and carried this city, and finally made a conquest of the whole island. In a few years, however, the Vandal was obliged to submit to the victorious arms of Theodoric, the enlightened Ostrogoth; who in his turn yielded to the prowess of Belisarius and Narses, the rival generals of Justinian. Thenceforward Sicily adhered steadily to the empire, until 817 A.D., when Euphemius, a Sicilian commander, having violated Onomisa, a fair nun, her brothers complained to the Emperor Michael, who ordered the ravisher's nose to be cut off: on this he invited the Saracens over, and lost his life in an unsuccessful attempt to reduce Syracuse; but they, having sent a formidable force under Adelcamo, in a few years subjugated the island, and made Panormus the capital. Here the Saracens ruled with wisdom and energy nearly two hundred years, during which (notwithstanding the assertions of monkish historians to the contrary) commerce, agriculture, and even science, received the most liberal encouragement, and advanced in proportion.

About the year 1037, the Grand Emir declared the independence of Carthage; and, in the dissensions thereby occasioned, Ben al Themauh, the weaker of two rival brothers, applied to the Greek Emperor for assistance; who, smarting under the Sicilian piratical ravages, gladly despatched an armament to regain so fair a portion of the Empire. In this service some Norman knights, of distinguished prowess, having taken umbrage at the avaricious conduct of Maniaces, the Greek general, in the division of the spoil, sent Arduin as their agent to expostulate; but, instead of receiving a satisfactory explanation, he was loaded with insult, and scourged in the

presence of the Grecian army. This intemperate outrage of the ungrateful Maniaces roused the Normans to vengeance, when the formidable sons of Tancred, soldiers of fortune, eminent for strength, courage, and courtesy, quickly deprived the Emperor of many of his finest provinces; until at length, after performing prodigies of valour, the renowned Count Roger became King of Sicily. During a reign of justice, vigour, and talent, he established a form of government upon feudal principles, which, notwithstanding various troubles and struggles, has been retained ever since.

There are few indications of the former splendour of Panormus, except the remains of a naumachia at the Mare Dolce, and some faint vestiges of an amphitheatre near the royal palace. In the senatorial hall, are preserved fragments of various marbles and inscriptions, and some tolerable medals. Of the sculpture may be noticed, a fine allegorical representation of Metellus and Panormus; the bust of a Roman, habited in the imperial robes; a curious sepulchral monument; and a unique marble vase, with the story of an eagle, a female, and a child, related in compartments. There are also some terminal heads, votive bullæ or tablets, and earthern pateræ and ollæ. In the royal palace, are two of the four bronze rams, supposed to have been made by Archimedes, to place on columns exposed to the cardinal points of the compass, so that, from the wind rushing through certain holes, the bleating denoted its direction. These two, it is asserted, have been preserved, by having adorned the gate of the castle of Maniaces at Syracuse.

Palermo stands on a large fertile plain, which from its shape, from being surrounded by mountains, and from its luxuriance, is called the vale of the golden shell, and gives the city the agnomen of "felix." The air is salubrious in general, but in some parts, on the site of the ancient ports, malaria is generated in autumn. The health of the population, amounting to nearly a hundred and eighty thousand souls, is assisted by the general cleanliness of the

streets, and the abundant supply of water. Most of the houses are provided with fountains, even to the second and third stories, which, in that climate, not only promotes salutary ablutions, but is one of the greatest luxuries. There is an excellent supply of provisions of every description. During the absence of the moon, the principal streets are tolerably well lighted. The town, however, lies low, so that after heavy rains it is extremely muddy, at which times recourse is had to moveable iron bridges for crossing the streets.

The city is surrounded by an old wall, of little or no strength, some of the bastions being occupied by gardens, while others have been cut away to increase the breadth of the Marina, a public drive on the sea-shore. The citadel stands on the western bank of the Cala Felice; it is calculated only for temporary resistance, but there is a respectable fort called the Galita, on the opposite side of the cove. The mole-head battery is tolerably strong, and as the whole of the forts act in conjunction with some coast batteries, they would be able to make a respectable defence against a squadron, though they could not hold out long against an investing force, being alike destitute of stores and proper quarters; besides which, the works are so scattered, that they would require a large garrison.

Palermo is regularly built, and with a better finish, might be esteemed an elegant city; but it presents an incongruous mixture of pomp and poverty, of fascinating gaiety, and disgusting wretchedness, exemplified in noble ranges of palaces, disgraced at their bases by the stalls, shops, and "mezzanini," or lofts, of the lower orders; in gaudy equipages, parading the same street with sturdy mendicants, vociferously demanding food, or sluggishly taking their siestas on the pavement, ridding each other of vermine between their naps. The vacant holes of scaffolding, every where visible, seem to indicate unfinished labours; the mixed architecture and heavy corbelled balconies, ever displaying wet linen, and the opera play-bills pasted on boards, suspended across streets already too narrow for the height

of the buildings, ruin the perspective effect. Swarms of priests, nobles, officers, and other loungers, yawning on chairs before the coffee-houses, and the cobblers, tailors, coopers, carpenters, and artisans of every description, at their respective employments outside their shop doors, complete the usurpation of the sides of the streets, driving foot passengers to run the gauntlet among the numerous carriages. The constant calling out this occasions, on the part of the coachmen, who seek to distinguish every person by an appropriate appellation, added to the hurry of business, and the thirsty groups around the fantastically decorated iced-water stalls, conspire to crowd and confuse the whole scene.

Two principal streets, upwards of a mile in length, divide the city into four quarters, and at their point of intersection, is a handsome octangle, called the "Quattro Cantoneri," or "Piazza Vigliena;" besides which there are several public places or squares, ornamented with obelisks, jets d'eau, and sculpture, of which the principal pieces are the column of St. Dominic, and the superb fountain opposite the Pretorian palace, which is elaborately adorned with arabesque ornaments, and statues of river gods, nymphs, and animals.

There are many libraries, theatres, hospitals, seminaries, and other public institutions, with various edifices well worth visiting; but, as they have been so frequently described, I shall confine myself to the description of very few. In most of the numerous churches something may be met with to gratify the curiosity of the stranger, who may enter at all times, as the acolytes, or lay-brothers, will shew the interior, even during the celebration of the ceremonies. Many of the churches are sumptuous without taste, and offend the eye by a profusion of ornament. A striking monotony reigns in their construction, being generally built with an elevated façade, a large nave, and two side aisles, bounded by lateral chapels, dedicated to various saints, and decorated with pillars, paintings, statues, flowers, and candelabra. The high altar faces the principal gate,

with the choir immediately behind, and the chapels of the Virgin and Holy Sacrament in the transepts. The silence that reigns during the intervals between the performance of the masses, renders an occasional visit to the churches highly favourable to reflection and serious meditation.

The cathedral was erected about 1180, by Archbishop Walter, an Englishman, and though not in the happiest Gothic taste, may be considered as one of the finest specimens of the twelfth century. The exterior affords a florid example of tracery, and the gates are finished with curious archivolt mouldings and sculptured spandrels, or pendentives; but the modern addition of a cupola to its crenated turrets, partakes rather of the grotesque. The interior has lately been altered to the light and airy style of the Greeks, and the contrast is too discordant with the magnificence of the remaining Gothic architecture, in which elaborate windows and stained glass give a degree of mysterious obscurity, quite consonant with the tombs and other mementos of mortality, which are met with at every step. The nave is supported by eighty-four handsome columns of oriental granite. The chapels of the Holy Sacrament, of the Crucifix, of the Madonna, and of Sta. Rosalia, are richly decorated; and the ceiling is ornamented with paintings in fresco. The sculpture of the whole is executed by Gaggini, whose arabesques are unequalled. Here are also several magnificent sarcophagi of fine red porphyry, the workmanship of which attests great age, it being much too good for the date of the Sicilian sovereigns, whose remains they contain. In 1781, the sarcophagus, enclosing the body of Frederic, was opened, when it was observed that, although he had been interred four hundred and forty-four years, the corpse was perfect and entire; it was clothed in a triple imperial dress, the alba, dalmatica, and pluviale, all highly ornamented with embroidery, gold, and pearls.

Besides the cathedral, the following are also deserving of notice:

the Royal Chapel, the Martorana, the Church of the Jesuits, St. Dominico, S. Giuseppe, Sta. Zita, S. Salvatore, S. Cataldo, S. Giovanni degli Eremiti, S. Francesco di Paolo, Sta. Chiara, the Ganci, the Olivella, and Oratory of S. Filippo Nero.

The Royal Palace is a spacious building, of mixed Arabic and Norman architecture, and is the residence of the Viceroys of Sicily. It contains some good paintings, a neat armory, and the beautiful little church of St. Peter, which, with its cryptic or underground chapel, and superb mosaics, forms one of the most complete specimens of Saracenic magnificence extant. In the above-mentioned armory there is a sword, said to have been Count Roger's, though others assert it to be of a far more remote date; the latter is the favourite opinion; but it is so much larger than any ancient sword I ever saw, that I should rather imagine it really to have been a Norman weapon, although the beauty of the hilt, which is of silver, is superior to the general taste of that period.

On the summit of the pile of building forming the royal palace, is established the Observatory, first erected in 1748, when the attention of astronomers was attracted to the conjunction of five planets in one sign of the Zodiac, a phenomenon which till that year had not occurred since the creation of the world. It has since been completed by the worthy Piazzi, who I am proud to call my friend; and if it were not that the horizon visible from thence is not sufficiently expanded, might be ranked as one of the first institutions of the kind in Europe. Here the patient labours of Piazzi were rewarded by the discovery of a new planet, and he became the first observer of two several comets, whilst his minute classification of the stars has been the cause of the planets Pallas, Juno, and Vesta having been discovered by other astronomers; with regard to which, as they are all between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, and similar in their mean movements, a theory has been suggested by scientific men, that they may be the fragments of a ruined planet. The increase to the classes of Mag-

nitudes by Piazzi, will doubtless create additional labour to future astronomers, as it includes most of those stars of less than the seventh magnitude, heretofore termed Nebulæ; but the strict examination and investigation of these will not only be of eminent utility in ascertaining the places of planets and comets, but will also throw future light on the variations effected in the course of ages, in the relative situations of certain fixed stars, their periodical increase and decrease, and the appearance and gradual disappearance of others.

It is remarkable, that, immediately under the Observatory, is an interesting inscription, in Greek, Latin, and Arabic, stating that, in 1142, a time-piece was made and placed there, by command of Count Roger. This is one of the earliest on record, and was most probably constructed by his Saracen friend Aldrissi, who is known to have made him a silver globe, as well as to have written the work called Roger's Book, or the Geography of Nubia.

The Monte di Pietà is a spacious building, with a neat portico, where the benevolent purposes of the establishment are conducted with impartial regularity. These banks of compassion were instituted in the reign of Charles the Fifth, for the purpose of rescuing the distressed from the fangs of Jews and usurers. Every principal city or town of the island has one of them, and many two, endowed under the authority of government, with a certain capital to be lent out on goods, at a moderate interest, which, together with the profits arising from the sale of unredeemed pledges, is devoted to the maintenance of charitable establishments.

The university is an extensive foundation, with professors for every department of science and art. It is furnished with an anatomical collection, a printing-press, and a library of upwards of thirty thousand volumes.

The tribunal of justice and the custom-house are both in the same large building, on the Piazza Marina, formerly the office of the Inquisition. That institution was finally abolished in 1782, by the

Marquis Caracciolo, who publicly liberated the prisoners, and destroyed the archives, amidst the plaudits of the whole population.

The Vicarìa, or public prison, is in the main street, which is therefore greatly incommoded by a crowd of the wives and relations of the prisoners, many of whom keep stalls around the walls of the gaol. It is ventilated by a large court-yard in its centre; but notwithstanding this, and a plentiful supply of water, it is dirty, and, in many respects, badly provided. In this same place, by the mistaken clemency of the law, many of the vilest assassins in Sicily are confined for life, among youths convicted of minor offences, who are thus exposed and abandoned to the seductive influence of depravity. Imprisonment is the usual punishment inflicted by Sicilian judges; but it is perhaps impolitic, for confinement is often fatal to the weak, whilst robust delinquents regard the sentence but lightly. Here disorder, gambling, drinking, and worse vices, sufficiently prove the truth of the Sicilian adage, that the prison never made a man virtuous.

In 1815 a dreadful circumstance occurred, and being attended with peculiar singularity and a consequent execution, which in Sicily is rarely inflicted, I shall here relate it. A chemist of some note had long been practising on poisons, with a view of throwing light on the famous waters of Tofana, for vending which he had seen an old woman executed in Palermo about thirty years before. He was of opinion, that far from being invented in this city by Tofana, this deleterious anti-connubial mixture had descended from the Cornelia and Sergia, who were condemned by the ancient Romans, with about a hundred and seventy other matrons, for administering it to their husbands; and that its principal ingredients were hemlock, opium, and cantharides. It is incurable in its effects, and being as clear as spring water, and perfectly tasteless, baffles every precaution to avoid it. The acqua Tofana has the singular property of remaining in the body several weeks without inflicting convulsive pains, or

obliging the patient to keep his bed; but, after death, the limbs separate as the body becomes cold. Among its most distinguished victims it has been asserted, that the energetic Pope Ganganelli was one, who, by abolishing the Jesuits, and by various reforms, had engendered a host of enemies. Such were the pursuits and speculations of this chemist; when happening to offend his son, a hardened youth of sixteen, a portion of the deadly infusions of his phials was poured by the wretch into the soup of which his father, mother, and an orphan girl, were about to partake, and of which they all three died. So horrible a catastrophe aroused the vengeance of even Sicilian law, and the culprit was arrested, tried, and condemned to be hung and burnt to ashes. He remained for three days after condemnation in the chapel of the prison, attended by priests and seculars, some of whom were nobles in the frightful white disguises before mentioned, and who administered to his wants, and supplied him with every article of food he desired. On the fatal day he was led forth, by the gate of St. George, in a melancholy procession, headed by the two executioners, distinguished by a party-coloured dress of red and yellow, intended to mark the degradation of the office. Behind them marched the criminal, in a black pitched vestment and bare-headed, accompanied by the white brotherhood, the priests, and the officers of justice. On being assisted up the ladder, the scene was truly horrible, for one of the motley wretches sat upon the gallows, and when the assistant had leaped off with the victim, nimbly glided down the rope, and all three remained swinging together; but this, though a very unsightly, is certainly a merciful, mode of execution. At the instant of turning off the malefactor, the spectators retreated a step or two with a rustling noise, as if in prayer for the departed spirit; and their whole behaviour on the occasion was so humane and compassionate, notwithstanding the depravity of the offender, as to exhibit a striking contrast to their

indifference respecting assassination. After hanging a few minutes, the body was lowered down, burnt on a grate, and the ashes scattered in every direction.

The Jesuits' College is a magnificent edifice in the Cassaro-street, and contains various schools for education in all its departments, with a magnificent library. Here the Parliament of Sicily holds its sittings; and, as much interest has been excited by it, a few words on that topic may not be improper. The Congress of Roger consisted of three distinct houses or branches, the Peers, the Clergy, and the Commons; but, as the motions were carried by a majority of votes, and the ecclesiastical branch consisted of dependants on the baronial, the connexion between them evidently rendered the third branch useless. The determinations of 1812 placed the representation on a more equal balance in two houses, and made the Counsellors of State responsible. The state of the press was also greatly improved, but public discussion was subjected to several salutary regulations; for though the benefits of reflection and inquiry, disseminated by a free press, cannot be denied, still the corrupt immorality and intemperate slander attending the abuse of such liberty, is productive of most mischievous results to society.

As the system adopted by Roger, and enlarged by Frederic of Swabia, was far from rendering the monarch absolute, it might have been improved into a free constitution by an energetic people; but the nobles and clergy were so despotic in the exercise of their baronial and ecclesiastical rights, that they successfully resisted every encroachment, until the enlightened Caracciolo abridged their power, and paved the way for the abolition of feudal authority. By the resolutions of 1812, vassalage was annulled, and all the Sicilians were thenceforth to be considered, by the common law of the kingdom, as having equal rights. By this the barons lost so many privileges, that, as an indemnification, they were relieved from the expenses annexed to the jurisdiction of their territories, the repair of prisons

and castles, and the responsibility for offenders. Their losses in investiture, military vassals, rights of grace, half years, (or the revenue of bishoprics during that length of time on the demise of the bishop,) and other attributes and taxations of feudalty, were compensated by the abolition of the civic privileges exercised by individuals on baronial lands; of wooding, feeding animals, picking acorns, pre-occupying arable lands at a fixed rent, with several other active and passive customs, that had crept in, to the prejudice of agriculture and rural economy.

The corn laws were also ameliorated, and will, no doubt, by stimulating individual industry, be an additional incitement to general improvement; for they were previously regulated by an oppressive institution, called the Tribunal of Royal Patrimony, a court consisting of six members, who, under pretence of collecting the king's dues, progressively advanced themselves to power, and ultimately became the authors of all that confusion and irregularity in the revenue, which render the laws and duties so intricate. This court was abolished in 1812, but the custom of governing the cities and towns by senates, composed of from five to ten jurats, whose office it is to inspect the internal police, to levy money, and to contract for provisions, is still continued. The general poverty is increased by their mode of raising local taxes; for, instead of being levied on incomes, equipages, or luxuries, they usually press heavily on the lower orders, by being imposed on bread, meat, fish, fruit, and such articles of daily consumption as the senates select.

The Tribunals of Justice were also placed on a less arbitrary footing, and torture was abolished; reserving, however, to the Supreme Court the liberty of proceeding by Inquisition on well-grounded presumption of treason, murder, heresy, or coining. But unfortunately, though the use of "Damusi" was declared illegal, they were not destroyed: these are humid dungeons, six or seven feet square, paved with small pointed stones, where prisoners

were kept, heavily ironed, without any thing whereon to lie, and limited to a scanty portion of bread and water, to compel them to confess. If the culprit could endure this for forty days, and made no disclosures, he was released, but a shorter time was generally sufficient to undermine the most athletic constitutions, as the little air contained in so small a space soon becomes intolerably bad.

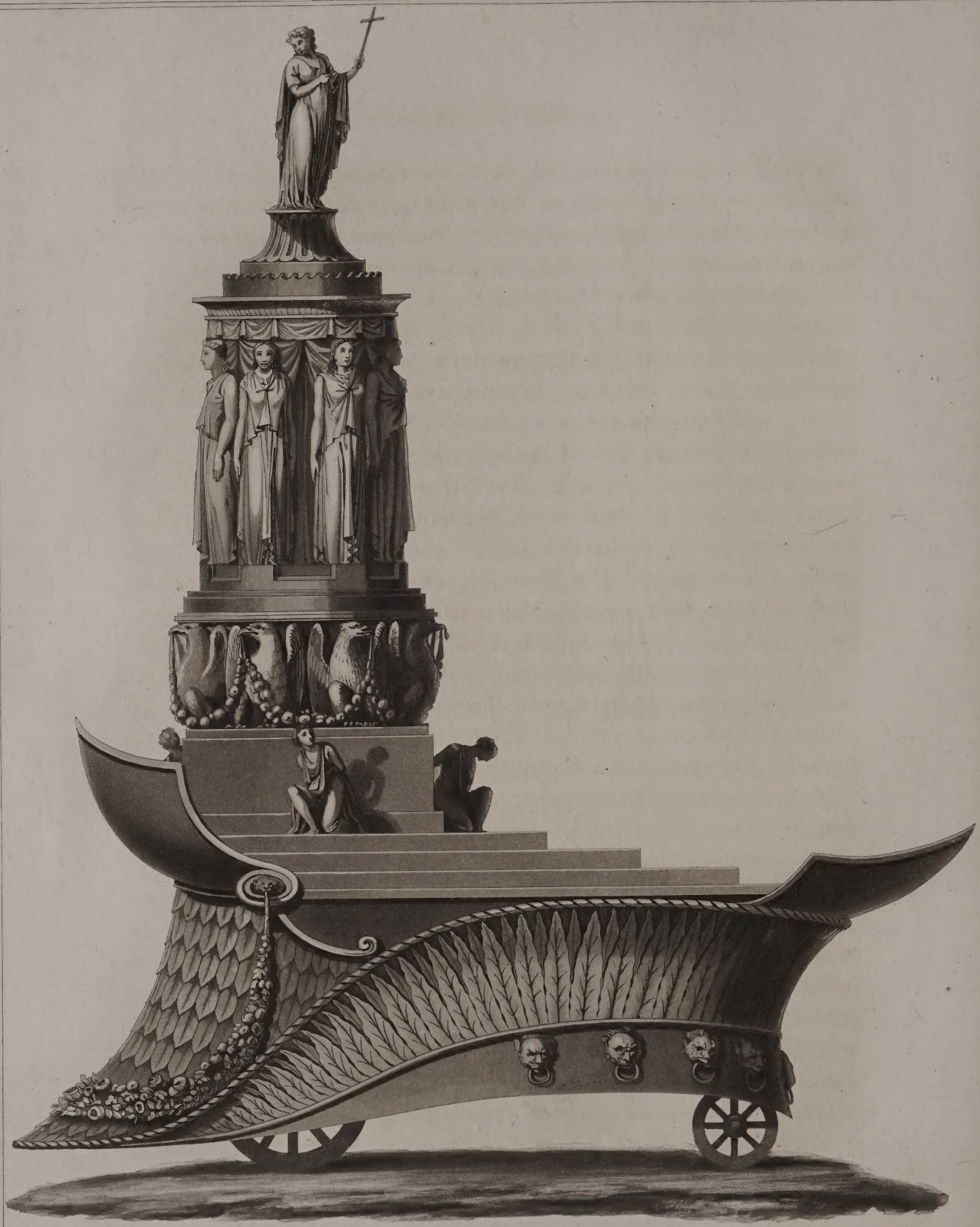
Such were the advantages gained by the Sicilians, when their national pride received a check by the promulgation of an edict from Caserta (a royal palace near Naples), in December, 1816, declaring the island an integral portion of Naples; and though the decree was qualified by stating, that all civil and military offices should be conferred solely on Sicilians; that they should be admitted to the great offices of the whole kingdom, in the ratio of their population; that in lawsuits there should be no appeal from Sicilian tribunals; and that its revenues should not exceed the sum voted by the parliament of 1813, the natives deeply deplored the annexation.

It was not, however, until July, 1820, that the islanders received a decided proof, though their constitution had never been abolished, that the Neapolitan insurgents regarded their national independence as forfeited; for, without consulting their feelings or prejudices, they attempted to force on them a monstrous kind of anarchy, a sort of monarchy without a head, or a republic without a king. On their bravely resisting this arbitrary measure, the conspirators, who had, with the assistance of a mutinous soldiery, but just overturned their own government, declared the Palermitans rebels, and in their consequent tyrannical proceedings, gave a public example of the system they would have pursued, had their courage and ability equalled their gasconade.

Suburbs of Palermo.—Passing through the Porta Felice, a fine "Marina" presents itself, formed by a noble line of palaces fronting the sea, and a carriage-road, with a broad pavement, called the

" Banchetta," for pedestrians, where natives of all ranks enjoy the refreshing sea-breeze, called Mamatiti, in the evening. The beauty of the prospect, the multitude of loungers, and the concourse of carriages, render it an animated and amusing scene. At the eastern end is a botanical institution, consisting of an elegant building, in which lectures are delivered, with a garden annexed. Adjoining to this, is the " Flora," a beautiful public-garden, planned on the very spot where the hellish exhibition of the Auto da Fe was wont to take place. This is a striking change, for, while the effect of the one was that of spreading suspicion and creating terror, the other has a beneficial influence, and harmonizes, in some degree, the several ranks of society. There are luxuriant rows of orange, lemon, citron, and lime trees, supported on trellisses, forming avenues along the principal walks, and dividing parterres of odoriferous plants, watered by several fountains. The principal of these is ornamented by a beautiful statue of Panormus, surrounded with his attributes, by Mirabati; among the temples and sculptured decorations, are cenotaphs in honour of Charondas, Epicharmus, Archimedes, and Stesichorus.

The time for seeing these grounds to most advantage is, when they are illuminated for the festival of Sta. Rosalia, a superb pageant annually exhibited from the 9th to the 13th of July, during which the great variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, the murmuring of the fountains, the cheerful strains of music, and the radiant glow of twenty thousand lights, combine to charm the senses, and to inspire delight. Tradition represents this saint, the tutelary patroness of Palermo, to have been a daughter of Sinibaldus, and that being disgusted with the profligacy of William's court, she retired to a life of solitude and prayer on Mount Pellegrino. There her bones were discovered in a grotto, through the usual medium of a vision, at the critical moment when the city was smarting under the ravages of a plague, which, of course, was instantly stayed.



THE CAR OF SANTA ROSALIA.

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The anniversary of this auspicious event has ever since been pompously celebrated by brilliant illuminations, splendid fireworks, and the procession of a lofty car, floridly decorated with various allegorical figures, surmounted at the height of sixty feet by the statue of Sta. Rosalia, and drawn slowly up the Cassaro by fifty oxen, with a band of music in front. The method of illuminating a city in Sicily evinces a much better taste than our's, as the tone of the whole is equal, and public buildings only are expected to display particular magnificence, for the streets are lined with slight wooden arcades, all of a certain height; and these being covered with brilliant lamps, have a much more imposing effect than the irregular attempts of individuals, most of whom would content themselves with putting a few candles in the windows.

The fire-works are also on a very extensive scale, supported by scaffolding on the Marina, and usually represent some historical event. The most splendid I had an opportunity of seeing was, in some respects, an appropriate subject for pyrotechnical illustration, being the attack, and burning of Troy; when, after numerous beautiful evolutions, a grand maroon battery opened, and amidst the flight of many hundred rockets, the city crumbled away, and a magnificent illuminated temple appeared in its place. This part of the festival is succeeded by horse-races in the crowded streets; yet without any accident occurring, although there are no riders to guide the animals, but the populace divide as the horses advance, and close immediately behind, adroitly giving the poor creatures a blow as they pass. On the last evening, there is a splendid illumination of the interior of the cathedral, in which the drapery of gold and silver tissue, the mirrors, and the lights are so tastefully arranged as to command unqualified admiration. The whole winds up on the fifth day, with a procession of all the saints in Palermo, amidst a tremendous noise of drums and trumpets. A part passes on to Mount Pellegrino, where a fine causeway has been made leading

up to the Grotto, in which is a statue of bronze gilt, with head and hands of Parian marble, representing a handsome girl, in a reclining posture; and the jewels with which it is ornamented, prove the faith of her devotees. Some priests reside constantly on the spot; and there is a small tavern in the vicinity where visitors can procure refreshments.

The Marina road continues eastward over the famous Oretus, to the picturesque suburb of the Bagaria, where are some palaces and gardens of the Palermitan nobles. The most remarkable of them are those of the Princes of Valguarnera, Butera, and Palagonia; the first is admired for its chaste plan and execution, and the second for its expensive establishment. The last is celebrated for its singularity; but though ridiculous and incoherent in detail, it does not merit all the censure it has received; as the triumphal arch and courts forming the approach, except in the unnatural monsters with which they are ornamented, are not destitute of taste; while some of the apartments, from a profusion of mirrors, both on the walls and on the ceilings, of agate tables and chairs, mosaic floors, &c., are really handsome. Most of the worst monsters, however, have been removed from the avenue by the present Prince, in consequence of the remarks of travellers, and the satires of his countrymen. On Catalfimi, the hill above Bagaria, stood Soluntum, a city of the earliest date, of which there are only slight vestiges, such as some sepulchres cut in the rock, traces of a road, and trifling remains of two small temples.

There are many fine specimens of Moorish architecture existing in the vicinity of Palermo, one of which, about a mile from the city, on the Monreale road, was the Saracenic fortress of Kooba; but is now called Castel Reale, and used as cavalry barracks. Over the great door is a curious picture, so peculiarly grouped and shaded, as to make it difficult to count the figures. The most remarkable of these edifices is the Ziza, or Azziza, a building of hewn stone,

THE CADAVERY NEAR PALERMO.

with light arches and icicle pendentives, ceilings covered with crockets and fynials, and windows ornamented with mullions and tracery. This style of architecture, together with its mosaics, inscriptions, and fountains from the Albuhira springs, completely identify it as the Emir's palace, described in the Arabic manuscript at Monreale. The whole edifice is in such good preservation, that it is still inhabited, being now the residence of Prince Sandoval. The view from the terrace is so admirable, as almost to justify the sorites contained in the inscription thereon, which says, "Europe is the glory of the world, Italy of Europe, Sicily of Italy, and the adjacent grounds are the pride of Sicily."

Between the Ziza and Mount Pellegrino, but close under the latter, is a picturesque royal "casino" or country-seat, called the "Favorita," consisting of an edifice in the Chinese taste, surrounded by extensive grounds well laid out, that are profusely stocked with game of every kind. The apartments are fitted up in the best style of several nations, the English, French, Turkish, &c.; but there are two rather peculiar, one is a family dining-room, fitted with a table that has several circular apertures communicating with the kitchen, and through these the plates rise with whatever the guests may require; so that the necessity of having servants in the room is obviated. The other room is artfully adapted to counteract the heat of summer, as it represents a cold dilapidated vault, with moist walls, and broken roof, through the fissures of which, houseleek, ivy, and other plants obtrude themselves. This was the favourite residence of King Ferdinand, during his secession from public affairs, after the introduction of the new constitution in 1812.

Near the Ziza, is a Capuchin convent, where a decent table is provided for such decayed nobles as are ashamed to beg. In this convent there is one of those cemeteries, common in Sicily, consisting of a large subterranean space, clean and airy, divided into galleries, surrounded with niches, for the reception of the dead bodies; but this one having been represented as a sort of exhibition of portraits

of departed friends, I the more particularly notice it. Previously to descending, the acolyte directs the attention of the visitors to the pictures on each side of the door, the one representing the death of a good man, surrounded by priests and angels; the other that of a sinner, whose dying moments are imbittered by fiends and flames; added to which, there is a sonnet between them, on mortal dissolution; so that, on the whole, the feelings are prepared for a solemn and mournful spectacle. On descending, however, it is difficult to express the disgust arising from seeing the human form so degradingly caricatured, in the ridiculous assemblage of distorted mummies, that are here hung by the neck in hundreds, with aspects, features, and proportions, so strangely altered by the operation of drying, as hardly to bear a resemblance to human beings. From their curious attitudes, they are rather calculated to excite derision, than the awful emotions arising from the sight of two thousand deceased mortals. There are four long galleries with their niches filled, besides many coffins containing noblemen in court-dresses; and among the principal personages is a king of Tunis, who died in 1620. At the end of the great corridor is an altar, with the front formed of human teeth, sculls, and bones, inlaid like a kind of mosaic work. There is a small apartment at the end of one of the galleries, which I entered, but soon quitted with the greatest nausea, from an exceedingly offensive stench; for I found it was a dirty room, called the oven, in which several bodies, in various stages of putrescence, were undergoing the operation of drying. I observed, however, that the friar, who accompanied me, did not appear to be incommoded either by the sight or the effluvia.

In another part of the Vale of Palermo, is a large establishment for public burial, called the "Campo Santo," or Holy Field, instituted by Caracciolo, to abolish the noxious practice of committing the bodies of so great a population to vaults under the churches. It is an extensive enclosure, planted with rows of cypress-trees, between which are the repositories. One of these is opened every morning,

and the dead of the day are brought, and thrown down without any distinction of age or sex. In the evening, a quantity of quick lime is thrown in, and the slab replaced, until the turn arrives for the graves to be reopened, which, from the number, is nearly the lapse of a year. The church belonging to this burial-ground was formerly dedicated to the Santo Spirito, and was the place where the daughter of M. Angelo was seized by a French soldier, on the 30th of March, 1282, which led to the memorable massacre, called the Sicilian Vespers, when nearly ten thousand people fell victims to the cruel policy and faithless principles of the haughty Charles of Anjou. Nothing but the tyrannical system of extortion, culliage, and violence, then in force, could ever have urged the Sicilians to such a determined extirpation of their enemies, that they even ripped up those women suspected of being pregnant by the French; and killed every man they detected to be a foreigner, by observing his pronunciation of the word "ciceri," or vetches; a test, similar to that of "Shibboleth," instituted by Jephthah on the slaughter of the Ephraimites, and repeated in Wat Tyler's insurrection, where foreigners were convicted of alienism, by being made to pronounce the words bread and cheese; and on their unhappily betraying a transmarine accent, their death was inevitable. The Frisons also, when they had any suspicion that a stranger was amongst them, made him pronounce, what few strangers could utter with Frieslandic euphony, "Dir iz nin klirk zo krol az klirr klamstor krol here di klirk aller klirben iz hia to krol."

On a rising ground, and in a romantic situation, at the south part of the vale of Palermo, stands Monreale. The road leading to it runs in a straight line from the Cassaro, through the luxuriant plain to the foot of the mountain, on which the city stands. It is bordered with elegant buildings to the distance of about three miles, where it begins to ascend the hills by a noble causeway, constructed by Archbishop Testa, and ornamented with refreshing

fountains, gushing from the midst of bowers, formed by the Nymphea Lotus, water-lily, and various flowering shrubs. It is, in short, such a continuation of rich and diversified scenery, as to afford full scope for admiration to the ardent lover of nature.

Monreale, though not a fine town, contains many remarkable edifices. The cathedral is almost incrusted with mosaic work, and partakes both of the Saracenic and lower Grecian styles. It is not destitute of effect, though heavy and unsymmetrical. Here were deposited the remains of William the Good, William the Bad, many other distinguished personages, and the intestines of Saint Lewis; but a destructive fire, in 1811, so damaged the whole edifice, that some of the relics have been removed to Palermo. The adjoining Benedictine convent is a rich establishment, with a cloister that, from its magnitude and taste, is esteemed the masterpiece of Count Roger's architects. The grand entrance is adorned with one of the finest pictures of Novelli, commonly called the Monrealese, an artist so vigorous, graceful, and true, as to be the boast of the Sicilian school of painting.

Three or four miles from Monreale, is situated the magnificent convent of St. Martino, a Benedictine establishment, founded by Gregory the Great, and which, on its first appearance, in a wild solitary dell among rocky mountains, has a singularly picturesque effect, calling to mind the descriptions of Tadmor in the desert. The principal entrance is through a superb hall, where it is customary for visitors to leave their swords and sticks; a precaution used in consequence of some banditti having gained admission under the character of pilgrims, and plundered the sacristy and abbot's cell. From the hall a grand flight of marble steps, with a solid balustrade of stalactite, ascends to the roomy and well-ventilated galleries; the principal of which is terminated by a fountain bursting from a group of aquatic plants with a pleasing murmur. A general appearance of wealth and comfort is visible, in many respects approaching to

princely grandeur; the collection of embroidered dresses for the celebration of high mass, particularly the pallium, is very splendid: the Pix is of the purest gold, studded with costly jewels. In the church there are several good pictures and statues, and a superb organ, the fine tones of which are ably displayed by the skill and taste of my attentive friend, Father Colonna. This Monk, in common with his brethren, is extremely polite to those visitors who bring an introduction; and the frankness of their hospitality renders it doubly acceptable. Females are not permitted to enter the convent, but the church is open to all. To this establishment there belong also a novitiate, a cryptic chapel, a charity school, a cemetery, a billiard room, and a museum. The latter is rich in various branches of science; and among other curiosities, is shewn a cup which, the monks pretend, is the identical one from which Socrates drank his poison. The library is commodious and handsome, supported by neat Corinthian pillars of walnut wood, ornamented with arabesques. The floor is paved with glazed tiles, and the whole apartment very light and airy.

It was here that the literary fraud of the Abbate Vella was discovered. This learned swindler having, by several years' study and travelling, made himself master of various Arabic dialects, spread a report, on his return to Sicily, that he had recovered the lost books of Livy, in an Arabian manuscript taken from the cornice of the Mosque of Sta. Sophia at Constantinople. While he was employed translating this, and all the literati in Europe were anxiously waiting for the valuable publication, an ambassador, from the Emperor of Morocco, visited Palermo on his return from Naples, and was taken by Vella, among other places, to this library. His Excellency, well taught in his lesson, selected a manuscript, in presence of several of the monks, and while poring into it in apparent admiration, Vella looked over him, and with joyful exclamations declared it to be the history of Sicily during the Saracen

dominion. As the traditions of those times are involved in infinite obscurity, the discovery was so popular, that large sums were supplied and expended for the translation of the important documents. In a few years six volumes were in the press. The sudden recovery of such rare manuscripts, was the wonder and delight of the learned. In the warmth of their anticipations, they already beheld not only the decades of Livy, but the lost portions of Plutarch, Tacitus, and Diodorus, the comedies of Menander, and the Register of Augustus, recovered from Eastern versions. Why these expectations were so sanguine it is difficult to say, for though we are aware that Aristotle, Hippocrates, and Ptolemy, were translated by the Arabians, and that to them we owe the recovery of the conic sections of Apollonius, and other treatises of which the originals are lost; yet it is also certain, that the same people despised all writings except those on the exact sciences. Perhaps the novelty of the imposture assisted in its success; and had the ingenious Vella depended on induction rather than on syllogism, a pretended discovery of the works of Archimedes would have produced a more electric effect, and would probably have been more mischievous, from being less liable to detection. Many of the literati of Europe at length visited Sicily, to gratify themselves with a sight of the manuscripts; and amongst others, Dr. Hager, a German, intimately acquainted with the oriental languages, who, by a critical and patient examination of the characters, phraseology, and dates, pronounced the whole to be a gross forgery, and thus ruined the fraudulent speculation, after the greater part of the translation was ready for publication. It has been asserted that the imposture of Vella, relative to the portion of Sicilian history, was undertaken at the instigation of the Marquess Caracciolo, at that time Viceroy in Sicily, with a political view of attacking the baronial privileges, particularly in the instance of a letter said to have been addressed to a Caliph at Cairo, detailing the laws enacted by Roger, on his getting possession of the island. How this may

be, I know not; but certainly if true, it is to be regretted that so infamous a forgery should have been planned by one, who had conferred so many benefits on the island as the Marquess has done.

Solanto.—This is a castle and tunny fishery belonging to the King, who always passed the fishing season here, during his residence in Sicily, and rendered it at once a source of amusement, health, and profit.

Termini.—Of the ancient thermæ, or baths, there are very few vestiges, excepting some remains of walls, baths, and an aqueduct, with a few marbles and inscriptions of only local import. The present town makes a respectable appearance from the sea, lying on the declivity of a picturesque hill. The castle, situated on a high rock, is of some importance, as it entirely commands the town and coast. The line wall of the town, however, is falling fast to decay, and several convents are erected close to its important points: the streets are, in general, narrow and dirty, but there are some tolerable buildings, and an excellent carriage-road to the metropolis. Termini possesses a population of about eleven thousand inhabitants, who derive considerable profit from a fishery of anchovies, and the export of oil, olives, wine, sumach, corn, and rice: this port having been privileged by Charles the Fifth as a caricatore, or loading-place, is endowed with immunities for exporting the produce of the country.

The sudorific baths, so long famous for their efficacy in rheumatic and nervous disorders, are still used, but they are rather in a neglected and dirty state. The chalybeate sulphureous spring raises Fahrenheit's thermometer to 121°.

Between Mount S. Calogero and the Fiume Grande, which ranks among the largest streams in Sicily, was fought one of the most disastrous battles related in history. Xerxes, being about to cross the Hellespont, formed an alliance with Carthage as a diversion in his favour;

and the expulsion of Terillas, and annexation of Himæra to Agrigentum, by Theron, afforded Hamilcar a pretext for the invasion of Sicily. He accordingly came to Himæra with a fleet of two thousand armed vessels, and three thousand transports, having on board an army of three hundred thousand men, with which he invested that city. The siege was vigorously pressed, the city in a state of famine, and Theron reduced to the last extremity, when the politic Gelon of Syracuse marched to his relief. An intercepted messenger informed this enterprising chief, that the Selinuntines were to send their cavalry to attend a holocaust in the naval camp of Hamilcar, at some distance from the fortified positions of the land forces: thus apprized, the measures of Gelon were judicious and prompt. Orders were given to some select cavalry to enter the camp about the hour appointed for the arrival of the Selinuntines, to make an indiscriminate slaughter of all they met, and to set fire to the ships that were hauled on shore within the intrenchments. While these directions were being executed with decisive success, Gelon, at the head of his forces, assaulted the main body of the army in its camp, where the astonished Carthaginians defended themselves with desperate valour, and were in a fair way of repelling the enemy, and becoming the assailants, when, terrified by the flames in which they saw their fleet consuming, they fled, in a panic, in every direction. With Hamilcar, one hundred and fifty thousand men perished in the battle and flight; and the remainder, destitute of provisions, and deprived of every resource, were compelled to surrender. A few ships that happened to be at sea, sailed immediately for Carthage, but were overtaken by a storm, and wrecked on their own shores; so that only a few men, in a small boat, escaped the general destruction of this mighty armament. This battle, according to Herodotus, happened on the same day with the memorable conflict at Salamis; the less correct Diodorus says, on the same day with that of Thermopylæ. The last, however, is certainly erroneous, because Gelon, with infinite

sagacity, had awaited the issue of the first encounter between Xerxes and the Greeks, before declaring himself.

I suspect, however, from an examination of the plain and the beach, that Herodotus was mistaken in the numbers, and that such an army and such a fleet never could have found sufficient room here. I apprehend the enumeration of this force, as well as of that under Xerxes, has been made according to the prevalent practice of the ancients, without attention to any thing but absurd panegyric. Yet, in passing, I have thought it right to give the account as I find it.

Himæra was subsequently so utterly destroyed in the furious rage of Hannibal to avenge this dreadful disaster, that, among its "periere ruinæ," there are scarcely sufficient vestiges to point out the probable site of the birth-place of Stesichorus and of Xeuxis; and on Diocles disgracefully abandoning the place, he undermined the walls, and supported the shafts with beams of timber, which being consumed by fire, the walls tumbled in. This manœuvre occasioned a hard-contested conflict, in which, after prodigies of bravery, the Himærenses were almost exterminated, and their city destroyed; three thousand victims were selected from the captives, and sacrificed with aggravated insult and cruelty, on the spot where Hamilcar, the grandsire of the conqueror, had fallen.

The vicinity, though rich and picturesque, is one of the most unhealthy spots in Sicily, owing to the rice-grounds of Roccella and Campo Felice, which last certainly must have been so named in irony, as almost the whole of its inhabitants are poor and sallow, and are every one more or less sufferers from mal' aria.

Cefalù.—At the foot of some tolerably wooded hills, is the Bay of Cefalù. The town is situated on a low point, under a high conical mount, on the summit of which are the ruins of a very ancient Phœnician edifice, and a Saracenic castle, with a crenated wall and towers round it. Cefalù is surrounded by a bastioned line wall, but

the works are old, weak, and easily assailable. The streets are tolerably regular, and there is a large cathedral, endowed by Count Roger, in fulfilment of a vow he made during a violent gale at sea.

When small vessels are surprised here, or indeed on any other part of the coast, by fresh winds, and are unable to haul up on the beach, they are anchored and abandoned; for, by an absurd regulation, Sicilian underwriters are not liable to pay any portion of the loss for a vessel stranded, if it appears a man was on board, as they assert that a person, under the influence of terror, might cut the cable; when, therefore, bad weather is approaching, they have only to moor with their best ground-tackle, and repair on shore, leaving the vessel to the mercy of the winds, waves, and saints.

To the eastward of Cefalù, the country for several miles, as far as the romantic castle of Pollina, possesses many picturesque beauties, and is intersected by the river Ambrosia, running through a deep valley among the mountains; from which rush such gusts of wind, as to occasion the spot to be called "Malo Portuso," or Bad Hole. The adjacent country (continuing the route along the coast) is very fertile, producing wine, cork, oil, silk, flax, manna, timber, and charcoal.

The coast then continues, with but little variation of feature, to the towns of Tusa and Sto. Stefano.

Caronìa.—On the summit of a hill, above a wide "fiumara," near the site of Calë Actë, stands Caronìa, protected by a castle, in which the officers, intrusted with the care of the woods, reside. The town consists of but one good street, and possesses a population of about two thousand people, who mostly work in the adjacent forest, the largest in Sicily, occupying a space of nearly fifty miles in circumference. There are great quantities of oak, elm, pine, and ash, of excellent quality. The government does not reap the full benefit from these woods, as the timber is felled and squared on the spot,

and is then fastened by a hook to the harness of some cattle, and thus dragged from rock to rock. The carriage of it is attended with many difficulties, and the sale, from various causes, with various abuses. The woods of Sicily afford sufficient timber to answer every exigence, but, from an unaccountable apathy, they are neglected, and great numbers of the finest trees are annually felled, for no other purpose but to be converted into charcoal.

On the beach, below the convent of San Fratello, the luxurious Verres, too lazy to mount the abrupt precipice, rested in his litter, while Agathocles ordered the natives of Aluntium to bring down their plate and bronzes, for the inspection and selection of his "Cibyratic hell-hounds."

St. Agata.—St. Agata is a town and hamlet on the beach of a level fertile country, excessively afflicted with mal' aria, except in a few places where charcoal is made. Within a short walk of St. Agata, is the Rosa-Marina Fiumara, a beautiful torrent, the banks of which are covered with mulberries, oleanders, and myrtles; and higher up in its course, are the remains of a massy Roman bridge, that consisted of seven fine arches, one of which is still entire.

The whole country, from thence to Cape Orlando, is under the jurisdiction of the city of San Marco, lying on a hill, with a difficult road up to it. This city is well situated, in a pure air, and near it are the three dependent villages of Frazzano, Mirto, and Capri; the whole, together with the Marina below, containing a population of about four thousand seven hundred people. The adjacent grounds are a continuation of market-gardens and orchards, but the air, particularly near the Zapulla Fiumara, is very unwholesome; and I met with more snakes and reptiles there than elsewhere. The produce of the country is honey, corn, oil, wine, and silk.

Several respectable, though not affluent, nobles reside at San Marco; and a few good pictures are to be seen, but it is seldom

visited by strangers. My arrival being an uncommon event, I was not only politely received by an old gentleman, to whom I had a letter of introduction, but in the evening, with a view of shewing me some attention, a kind of levée, or "conversazione," of all the dignitaries of the place was held; in which bag-wigs, point lace, dress swords, and rich brocades, started from their presses, and rustled about with ceremonious gravity. Bad singing, accompanied by a dirty, ill-toned harpsichord, amused the company until my coxswain (whom I had despatched, for the purpose, to the gun-boat that I commanded) returned with ample means for giving the guests some English punch, the fame of which had reached them; and, in its potent efficacy, the formal decorum of the grave senators gave way to unaffected vivacity, and vociferous compliments on the British nation.

Cape Orlando.—Cape Orlando is a steep rock, of moderate height, crowned by a ruinous pile called the Castle, but which is, in fact, nothing more than a church and place of interment for people who are wrecked on the rocks below; a catastrophe too frequent, as the place is remarkable for sudden squalls and heavy swells. There are four guns for the defence of the place, two of which were taken out of a Turkish wreck, but the whole are honeycombed, and the carriages rotten; nor is there any other garrison, but an old priest and his boy.

Naso.—Proceeding along the coast, the country becomes more mountainous, but not of less pleasing and fertile appearance. The town of Naso stands on a hill, the site of Agathyrnum, in a fine woody neighbourhood, with some storehouses on the sea-shore below it. The inhabitants, amounting to upwards of eight thousand, have gained many privileges during the present reign; in return for which, they erected a statue to Ferdinand, and thought to display their loyal

attachment, by refusing to recognise the constitution of 1812. For this purpose they planted artillery on the walls, and forming a corps of four thousand volunteers, forcibly resisted the troops sent to restore tranquillity. Naso possesses some handsome buildings, and the situation is very salubrious. Near it are some ferruginous waters, said to be efficacious in nervous and chronic disorders, and a well that has the property of dyeing every thing black that is thrown into it.

Brolo.—About four or five miles to the eastward of Cape Orlando, is Brolo Castle, erected on a steep cliff in a fertile valley, formed by the meeting of several "fiumare." Its situation is strong for coast-defence; but the edifice itself is only a ruinous mass of wall round a Saracenic Keep, destitute of ordnance, and with no other garrison than a few coast-guards.

Giojosa.—Giojosa Nuova is on the east side of the bay, formed by the points of Brolo and Balarina, and at the foot of the mountain on which the old town stands. The latter is now deserted, for the inhabitants, having endured many inconveniences from its lofty situation, and terrified moreover by some severe earthquakes, (a visitation additionally terrible on high grounds,) resolved to abandon their dwellings, and build an entirely new town near the sea. In this resolution they were encouraged, by the government having granted them an exemption from taxes for ten years, to enable them effectually to accomplish their design. They have, however, exchanged an Hygeian residence for a very unhealthy one, though, in another respect, they have gained an important advantage; for the old town abounded with large religious establishments, the occupiers of which, on the general evacuation, retreated to Patti and other places, and, in consequence, the new settlement is, as yet, tolerably clear of convents.

In the course of my operations, I had occasion to remain on the

mountain during the night; and, our observations being completed, we walked along the undisturbed streets, on our return, to a cottager's residence, when the moon, at times beautifully gliding in a wide expanse of ether, and at others partially obscured by fleecy clouds, that floated on a light breeze from the westward, mildly illuminated the deserted dwellings with such an awfully-pleasing effect, that the lengthened shadows, the convents with open casements, the dead stillness, and the singular aspect of the whole, strongly recalled to the memory the enchanted city of Nardoun in the story of Zobéïde.

Patti.—The city of Patti is situated on an eminence, at the base of a kind of mountainous amphitheatre, in a picturesque country, at the bottom of the bay of that name, and is the episcopal see of the tract of country between the Rosa-Marina and the Oliviera Fiumare. It is tolerably well built, is surrounded with a wall in a state of dilapidation, and possesses a Norman castle, that, having undergone several repairs and additions, now forms the residence of the bishop. On entering the town, the eye is arrested by a small mill, turned by the waters of an aqueduct, and covered with aquatic plants. The streets are mostly regular, though some of them are dirty. Many of the public buildings are worth the attention of the stranger, particularly the Cathedral, a monument of the piety of Count Roger, in which, exclusive of marbles, agates, and relics, is the tomb of Adelaide, wife of that renowned chieftain, and mother to the King of the same name.

A profitable manufactory of earthenware has been established here, which, together with the advantages of the beneficial fisheries of Ogliastro and San Giorgio, renders Patti comparatively affluent.

Tyndaris.—A fine plain leads from the Marina of Patti to a pass among the hills, called the "Scala di Tindari," on the summit of which

stood the city of Tyndaris, an establishment of some Messenians, who had been banished by the Lacedæmonians, and were at first settled at Messana, in Sicily, by Dionysius of Syracuse; but perceiving he had offended their persecutors, by placing them in so flourishing a colony, he removed them into the province of Abacene. Numerous ruins attest the once flourishing state of this town, in a situation combining every advantage of health, strength, and beauty. The city had but one grand gate; the irregular flanked walls are of large square stones, mostly without cement, built in irregular windings, following the form of the cliffs. There appear to have been an upper and a lower town, communicating by a flight of steps and a tesselated pavement, with the vicinity of the theatre, where the remains of a solid stone edifice exist, of singular architecture, with arches finely sprung of excellent masonry, which might perhaps have been part of a propylæum. The ancient theatre is hypæthral, and, with those of Taormina, Syracuse, and Segesta, appears as if it had been planned and projected by nature; being situated in the concave side of a hill, commanding a most romantic view. From this theatre are seen the Æolian Islands, the Appenine and Neptunian Mountains, and the plains of Milazzo, Barcelona, and Olivieri; while the wide expanse of the Tyrrhenian sea bounds the horizon to the north, and the hoary summit of Ætna closes the scene to the south.

Some paleographic inscriptions and fragments of sculpture have been found near the theatre; and the excavations I made there, at the Gymnasium, the sepulchres, and the temple of Minerva, were attended with such success, as to point it out as one of the best places in Sicily for a systematic excavation. In the convent on the cliff are preserved several architectural specimens; but two colossal statues, and some columns, were cut up to decorate the chapel of the Madonna and Child, who, with black faces and clumsy crowns, are caparisoned with the various offerings of devotional bigotry.

Part of Tyndaris is said to have been precipitated into the sea by an earthquake (the same, add the good monks of the convent, that took place at the crucifixion of our Saviour); but as I traced the walls, and found them continuous, I should imagine it to have been a suburb that fell, or rather a necropolis, as the whole of that side of the rock abounds with fragments of vases, lachrymatories, lamps, and idols. The cliff that was separated, no doubt, damaged the port beneath, as I found not only the dry sand, but also that which I dredged up in four fathoms' water, on the bank, mixed with numerous pieces of brick and cement triturated into small pebbles. This was the port whence the haughty Regulus sallied to attack the Carthaginian fleet, as it sailed unsuspectingly by the point.

Olivieri.—The Scala di Tindari leads down the hill to the unhealthy village of Olivieri, on the banks of the Elicona rivulet, once the Helicon. It contains about three hundred inhabitants, and has a very profitable tonnara. A picturesque path, lined with trees, conducts the traveller to a gentle eminence, on which stands the baronial palace of Scalaproto, where there are some sculptures, medals, vases, and stelæ, from the neighbouring ruins. The beauty of the situation, with the antiquity of the cisterns, and several local indications, lead me to imagine this to be the site of the villa of Pompeius Philo, from whose dish Verres plucked the fine cameos. The edifice itself is a large square castle, in a state of dilapidation, though two strong, but useless, bastions have been lately added to it. Besides a fountain before the great gate, there is an excellent cistern in the square court; and the whole building, with a little labour, might be rendered capable of affording refuge to the villagers, on a sudden alarm.

Milazzo.—The city of Milazzo possesses a population of eight thousand souls, and is divided into the upper and lower towns, both

of which are irregularly built, and, though there are a number of large edifices, can boast of none remarkable. The churches, with the exception of that of St. Francis, are generally mean, and the convents poor and dirty; the Dominican establishment alone assumes a tolerable aspect. The prison is a filthy sink; the public hospital is badly provided; and the Monte di Pietà languishes in bad hands. The fountain of Mylas decorates the lower town, and its waters (which, perhaps owing to the melting of snows, are most plentiful in summer) are esteemed very pure; but its ornaments, consisting of a recumbent statue, with a vase and other attributes, are wretched indeed. In the Carmelite convent, near Fort St. Elmo, there is a well of good fresh water, though several feet below the level of the sea, and so near the beach, that it is only sheltered from the beating of the surf by a wall.

The garrison is always commanded by a military officer, but the civic government is regulated by a senate of four noble jurats and a patrician syndic. The captain of justice is also a patrician, and is assisted in his duties by two judges and a fiscal magistrate. The inhabitants appear to be industrious and contented, subsisting by the exports of wine, silk, fruit, rags, soap, red and white argols, corn, olive and linseed oils, and tunny fish. A great quantity of a favourite cordial, called "vino cotto," is sent from the surrounding plain to different parts of the island; it is made by boiling the must and a little potash, over a slow fire, until two-thirds are evaporated; the proportions are, one mondello, or about a third of a bushel of potash, called "ceneri di salmento," being collected from burnt grape-vines, to four or five salms, equal to eight or ten barrels, of must.

The lower town has a small front of fortification, with a ravelin, and a very low glacis; this work is joined to a second line of defence by a long curtain, with a moineau on the west side, while to the eastward of the town there is nothing but an enclosed sea-battery, called Fort St. Elmo, which flanks the beach. The second line is

composed of a barrack-wall, with three bastions, and a long uneven glacis, united to the citadel by flanked walls, on the east side of which there are three good sea-batteries to defend the anchorage, in conjunction with Fort St. Elmo. The castle is well situated on the highest point, about three hundred and twenty feet above the level of the sea, and commands both the towns, the port, and the promontory. It was partly erected by the Saracens, but was finished in its present state by the emperor Charles V., whose ambition to construct expensive military works rivalled that of Justinian. It is composed of a keep, surrounded by a wall with square towers, outside of which there is another with round towers, and the whole is enveloped by an old bastioned line, built on a bad principle. There are large cisterns and good quarters, and, besides the usual store-rooms, a spacious grotto under the castle is also made use of, called the Cave of Ulysses, (where the oxen of the sun are fabled to have retired from the noonday heat,) which, from its size, and its sides being of a hard granitic breccia, is at once airy, dry, and convenient.

On the whole, Milazzo certainly offers every requisite advantage for a strong military position, as the promontory is a mass of granite, elevated considerably above the plain, and bounded on all sides by steep rocks, that are inaccessible from the sea, except where some narrow paths are cut, but which might be broken up in an hour. The approaches from all parts of it, towards the castle, meet in a narrow pass, and the principal road is well flanked by two solid square towers. These formidable obstacles have saved the town on several occasions, particularly in the vigorous operations of the Duke de Vivonne, in 1675, and the siege it sustained in the succession-war against the Marquess de Lede. If the lower town was entirely razed, and some of the houses of the upper town near the castle destroyed, the situation might be rendered impregnable; and the fertile gardens and vineyards, with which the whole of the promontory is covered,

would afford a besieged garrison the refreshments of fruit and vegetables, with the benefit of exercise; and by people possessing naval superiority, might be evacuated at pleasure, as there is an anchorage under Paradiso, out of the range of shot or shell from the plain.

Gulf of Milazzo.—Between Milazzo and Cape Rasaculmo, there is a deep sandy gulf, with several large fiumare running into it, the banks of these teem with mal' aria, but the heights, and most convenient spots, are covered with towns and villages, of which the most considerable on the sea-shore is Spadafora. This town is situated amidst beautiful scenery, but is decaying, unhealthy, and dirty.

It is remarkable that three decisive naval combats have been fought in this gulf; one by Duilius, a Roman consul, against the Carthaginians, B. C. 260, when a splendid victory was obtained from the invention of the corvi*; the second, between Augustus and Sextus Pompey; and the third, by the Saracens, against the fleet of the Emperor Basilius, about the middle of the ninth century.

Cape Rasaculmo.—Cape Rasaculmo is a fertile tabled promontory of moderate height; on the outer points stand the remains of a strong Saracenic tower, and near it a turret with a telegraph, erected by the English during their occupation of the island. The adjacent grounds afford excellent shooting, especially in the seasons of the migratory game.

* A kind of grapple to prevent the enemy's ship from escaping, and thus facilitate boarding.

CHAPTER IV.

Detail of the East Coast of Sicily; Messina, Taormina, Riposto, Aci, Trizza, Catania, Mount Ætna, Lentini, Augusta, Syracuse, Lognina, Vindicari, Marzameni, Passaro.

THE FARO POINT.—THE north-east extreme of Sicily, was the once famous Cape Pelorus, said, among other fanciful derivations, to have been thus named by Hannibal, in memory of his pilot, whom he executed on suspicion of perfidy, when he found himself land-locked here, and could perceive no means of escape; an anecdote ill according with the characteristic magnanimity of that hero. On its eastern side is a strongly-fortified light-house, and there are besides, for its defence, two sea-batteries, and two martello towers; the whole covered by a strong work on the hill, called the Telegraph Redoubt.

The village of the Faro is small and dirty, but the adjacent country is extremely picturesque, and still produces copiously the rough wine like the Falernian, formerly so celebrated under the name of Mamertium. Between the beach and the hills are two large sheets of water, united by a canal, that from their contour are named the Round and the Long Lakes, in which are the best eels and cockles in Sicily. The latter are very fine, and are reared with great attention, being placed, when young, in rows along the mud where the water is a foot and a half or two feet deep; there they burrow and are left to fatten, until of a proper size, when they are raked up, and others put in their place.

Scylla.—As the breadth across this celebrated strait has been so often disputed, I particularly state, that the Faro Tower is exactly six thousand and forty-seven English yards from that classical bugbear, the Rock of Scylla, which, by poetical fiction, has been depicted in such terrific colours, and to describe the horrors of which, Phalerion, a painter, celebrated for his nervous representation of the awful and the tremendous, exerted his whole talent. But the flights of poetry can seldom bear to be shackled by homely truth, and if we are to receive the fine imagery, that places the summit of this rock in clouds brooding eternal mists and tempests—that represents it as inaccessible, even to a man provided with twenty hands and twenty feet, and immerses its base among ravenous sea-dogs;—why not also receive the whole circle of mythological dogmas of Homer, who, though so frequently dragged forth as an authority in history, theology, surgery, and geography, ought, in justice, to be read only as a poet. In the writings of so exquisite a bard, we must not expect to find all his representations strictly confined to a mere accurate narration of facts. Moderns of intelligence, in visiting this spot, have gratified their imaginations, already heated by such descriptions as the escape of the Argonauts, and the disasters of Ulysses, with fancying it the scourge of seamen, and, that in a gale its caverns "roar like dogs;" but I, as a sailor, never perceived any difference between the effect of the surges here, and on any other coast, yet I have frequently watched it closely in bad weather. It is now, as I presume it ever was, a common rock, of bold approach, a little worn at its base, and surmounted by a castle, with a sandy bay on each side. The one on the south side is memorable for the disaster that happened there during the dreadful earthquake of 1783, when an overwhelming wave (supposed to have been occasioned by the fall of part of a promontory into the sea,) rushed up the beach, and, in its retreat, bore away with it upwards of two thousand people, whose cries, if they uttered any in the suddenness of their awful fate, were

not heard by the agonized spectators around. The town is built partly on the hill, and stretches down to the sea-shore on each side. A tolerable road leads up, though the steepness of the ascent in several places renders many windings necessary: the neighbourhood is exceedingly romantic, and there are many public buildings, but they often suffer so severely by lightning, especially the castle, that fatal accidents are frequent. Before quitting Scylla, it will be requisite to make some mention of the Tuberaster Fungus-Ferens, described also by Buccone in his Museo di Fisica: it is commonly called the mushroom-stone, but is rather an agglutination of Tufa and dried wood, so favourable to the growth of mushrooms, that when once it has imbibed the seed, it continues producing successive crops, even in the house, for a great length of time. These masses are anxiously sought for about the roots of trees, in the vicinity of Scylla, and carried over to Messina, either for sale, or as presents.

Strait of Messina.—On the whole, from the adhesive quality of the sands, and a strict examination of the various localities, particularly the light-house of the Faro Point, which was constructed two hundred years ago on the ruins of an ancient tower, (then as now, on the margin of the sea,) I do not believe the channel has widened; indeed it is not clear to me, that this part was not originally wider, and that the two lakes have been gained from it; the story related by Hesiod and Diodorus, of the sea being broad here, until Orion raised the promontory of Pelorus to place a temple on, though not a confirmation, gives some colour to the supposition.

The four principal stations of the distances across, in my trigonometrical operations, by theodolite angles from a base line on that part of the beach near Messina, called Mare Grosso, are from Faro Point to Scylla castle, six thousand and forty-seven yards, as before stated; from Ganziri village to Point Pezzo, three thousand nine hundred and seventy-one yards; from Messina light-house to

Point del Orso, five thousand four hundred and twenty-seven yards; and from Messina light-house to the cathedral of Reggio, thirteen thousand one hundred and eighty-seven yards.

One of the most extraordinary phenomena of this celebrated region is an aërial illusion, called the "Fata Morgana," from being supposed to be a spectacle under the influence of the Queen of the Fairies, the "Morgain la Fay" of popular legends. It occurs during calms, when the weather is warm, and the tides are at their highest; and is said, by some refractive property, to present in the air multiplied images of objects existing on the coasts, with wonderful precision and magnificence. The most perfect are reported to have been seen from the vicinity of Reggio, about sun-rise. I much doubt, however, the accuracy of the descriptions I have heard and read, as I cannot help thinking that the imagination strongly assists these dioptric appearances, having never met with a Sicilian, who had actually seen any thing more than the loom, or "mirage," consequent on a peculiar state of the asmosphere; but which, I must say, I have here observed many times to be unusually strong. It is spoken of by some as a luminous ignescent phenomenon, infallibly predictive of an approaching storm. May not the curious relation of the Spectres of the Syrtes, by Diodorus Siculus, book iii. chapter iii., be another and more extensive kind of Fata Morgana? I have myself, in those arid regions, very frequently seen the extraordinary illusion of lakes in the deserts, that appear to recede as the traveller advances, and called by the Arabs, Sarab.

The Faro of Messina.—The currents in the Faro are so numerous, and so varied, with respect to their duration and direction, that I found it very difficult to ascertain any thing with precision, as one series of observations seldom agreed with another; but I have generally found the statements of the most experienced pilots, after making due allowance for localities and weather, approximate very

near to each other. In settled seasons there is a central stream, running north and south, at the rate of from two to five miles an hour; and which, though, properly speaking, only a current, when uninfluenced by strong winds, is governed by the moon. On each shore there is a counter or returning set, at uncertain distances from the beach, often forming eddies to the central current; but, in very fresh breezes, the lateral tides are scarcely perceptible, while the main one increases so as to send, at intervals, slight whirlpools to each shore. There is, in general, an uncertain rise and fall of a few inches, but before the vernal equinox, when the sun is nearest the earth, and the moon in her perigee, they rise to eighteen or twenty inches. When the main current runs to the northward, it is called the ascending or flood, and the contrary, the descending or ebb. There is usually an interval of from about fifteen to sixty minutes between the changes; and the tide runs six hours each way, though I have known it, during a south-east gale, (which has the greatest influence,) flow to the northward upwards of eight hours. By the most precise observations I have been able to make, it is high water on the days of full and change of the moon, off the Faro Point, at six hours fifty-six minutes, and in the harbour of Messina, at eight hours ten minutes.

The Faro channel is entered on passing the light-house, and though from the nature of its winds and currents, it has long been clothed with imaginary terrors, yet as the Athenians and Syracusans, and the Locrians and Rhegians fought in it, it could not have been considered so fearfully horrible by ancient sailors, as by ancient poets; and the language of the former would probably have borne a tenor very different from the romantic embellishments of the latter, notwithstanding the passage through it might have been an affair of some moment with their small vessels and inexperienced seamen. But we have been gravely assured in a recent publication, that this strait is still extremely dangerous, and forgetful of the memorable

names of Loria, and Byng, and Walton*, it is added that Nelson was the first who ventured through with a squadron of men-of-war; while, on the contrary, it has always been used as an expeditious route to the eastward; and I am convinced that no persons well acquainted with this channel, will think it hazardous, especially if they have been in the habit of keeping well over to the Sicilian shore.

From the baffling winds to be expected, however, it certainly requires caution, though except the set of the current towards the rocks under the Torre di Cavallo, (a situation extremely disagreeable at night, in bad weather,) the beaches are so steep, that the stream enables vessels to glide safely along them. In light breezes the current may be stronger than the ship's effort, and by turning her round, often alarms a person unacquainted with the phenomenon, although there is no actual danger; and the losses there, during my residence in the island, were certainly not more than would have been the case in any other part, frequented by an equal number of vessels.

I would not, indeed, advise a stranger to push through in the night, unless with a fine, free wind, as the light at Messina is so indifferent, that it cannot be distinguished among the numerous torches of the fishermen, who, every tranquil night, cover the strait with their boats. Precautions should also be taken against the heavy gusts, which at times, from the mountainous nature of the coasts, vehemently rush down the Fiumare, and are dangerous to small vessels. I have twice, with grief, seen the neglect of them prove fatal; one of these circumstances occurred in the Flotilla, to which

* This was the officer, who after the action between Sir G. Byng, and the Spanish fleet, was detached in pursuit of six sail of the line, and as many smaller ships, that had escaped, and reported his complete success to the Admiral, in the following laconic terms:

"Sir,—We have taken or destroyed all the enemy's ships and vessels on the coast, as per margin. Yours," &c. &c.

I was then attached; a fine barge, with eighteen of the best sailors we had, in attendance upon Colonel Caffiero, one of our officers, had been on constant duty in this strait for several years; when, in the early part of 1815, having carried the Prince of Hesse Philipstadt on board a vessel bound to Palermo, the barge was assailed by so sudden a squall on her return, that they could not lower the mainsail, and she instantly overset; the bodies of the unfortunate men were picked up the next day, between Scaletta and Taormina, about twenty miles to the southward.

It is remarkable that there has been found in Messina, a Greek inscription to the memory of thirty-seven youths of Cyzicus, who met a similar fate in the Faro; and in honour of whom, as many statues, the workmanship of Calion, were erected with a suitable inscription.

On both sides of the channel, pure, though rather hard, fresh water is procured, by digging a hole in the sand, within two or three feet of the margin of the sea; this is occasioned by the filtering and percolation of the fiumare, which, though apparently dry, are never actually so; and this accounts, in some measure, for the mal' aria arising on their banks.

The Bay of Paradiso, a beautiful spot two miles north of Messina, is the place where the Spanish fleet rode previous to its disaster in 1718; and had it remained at anchor there, agreeably to the advice of Admiral Cummock, (an Irishman in that service,) it would have been very difficult to annoy it. The name of Paradise was bestowed on a palace on this shore, from the circumstance of the Governor of Messina and his family, who retired to it during the severe plague in 1743, entirely escaping the contagion. Subsequent earthquakes have shook down all the upper stories, but the first floor remaining habitable, several of our military Commanders-in-Chief successively made it their summer residence.

HARBOUR OF MESSINA.—In the north-east part of the harbour of Messina, between Fort Salvatore and the Lazaretto, a patch of ground is made foul by the wrecks of two old Spanish line of battle ships, the San Fernando of sixty-four guns, and the Harmonia of fifty, which were sunk by Admiral Byng's orders, to terminate a contention that had arisen among the Allies, respecting their ultimate disposal. Colonel Robinson, the active superintendent of the Flotilla Arsenal, weighed a part of one of these wrecks as late as the year 1814, which was extraordinary, for it would rather have been supposed, that the destructive teredo navalis, or ship-worm, from the great ravages it commits in this port, would not have left any part in existence.

This port is most eligibly situated for commerce, and is one of the most picturesque, commodious, and safe, that can be imagined. Provisions and vegetables are generally very plentiful; and good hard water is to be had at fountains on the Marina; which latter, extending along the shore of the harbour upwards of a mile, always presents an active scene, as the merchant-ships lie with their bowsprits over the quay, and the operation of discharging and receiving cargoes is facilitated in every way. The pratique-office, the fish-market, and the custom-house, are all on the Marina.

The Lazaretto is erected on an insulated shoal, between Fort Salvatore and the citadel, and is certainly the best establishment of the kind in Sicily; but the vexatious delays of the quarantine regulations, arising from its arrogating to itself independence of the Sanità, or Health-office, of Palermo, are great impediments to commerce; nor has it been able to recover the confidence of other similar institutions since the venality of a senator introduced the dreadful plague of 1743, which carried off forty-four thousand people, and overwhelmed the city with terror and desolation.

MESSINA.—Messina stands on the site of Zancle, a city of the

remotest epoch, and supposed to owe its foundation to Orion; but the history of the primitive ages is such an intermixture of fact and fable, that it is impossible to adjust the conflicting evidence. The name, however, is derived from the peculiar shape of the isthmus, which the ancients affirmed to be the sickle that had fallen from the hand of Saturn: more authentic accounts state, that Zancle was founded by a band of pirates from Cyme, a Chalcidic town of Opicia, and that the colony was shortly after joined by a numerous reinforcement from Chalcis in Eubæa, under the command of Perieres and Cratæmenes.

When it changed its name to Messana is a disputed point. Pausanias insists that, on the storming of Eiras by the vengeful Spartans, Gorgus, the son of the gallant Aristomenes, with the surviving Messenians, passed into Italy, and, in co-operation with Anaxilaus of Rhegium, (a colony formed after the evacuation of Ithome,) settled themselves in Zancle, the date of which event is supposed to have been about the year 670 B.C. According to the assertions of Thucydides, the Zancleans were driven out by some Samians and other Ionians, who, flying from the vengeance of the Medes, had landed in Sicily. After a short interval, Anaxilaus displaced them, re-peopled the city with mixed inhabitants, and changed the name to Messana, in honour of the place of his birth. Herodotus says, that the Samians and surviving Melesians, dreading the united tyranny of Æaces and the Medes, accepted an invitation from Scythes, King of Zancle, to found a colony in Sicily; but discovering, on their arrival in Italy, that their friends were engaged in a distant siege, they listened to the suggestions of Anaxilaus, tyrant of Rhegium, and, assisted by the treachery of Hippocrates of Gela, infamously seized the city, and enslaved the inhabitants. Both the two last-mentioned historians agree, that this event took place after the conquest of Ionia by Darius, and consequently about four hundred and ninety-five years before Christ.

Messana was, however, doomed to experience an instance of still more remarkable violence, and one that ultimately produced a most important crisis in history. Agathocles, the restless tyrant of Syracuse, had employed a band of mercenaries, calling themselves Mammertines, who, proving seditious, were ordered to quit Sicily. On their route to embark for Campania, they were received at Messana with unsuspecting hospitality, in return for which, they perfidiously murdered the citizens, seized their wives, and usurped their possessions.

So flagrant an outrage aroused the vengeance of the Carthaginians and Syracusans; and the Mammertines, after several severe defeats, were on the point of being annihilated, when they implored assistance from the Romans. Some of the senators, startled at the manifest breach of honour and justice, and struck with the ingratitude of sending a force against Carthage, a power with which they were in close treaty, and which had recently made a most serviceable diversion in their favour, against Pyrrhus, opposed the undertaking; but the majority, encouraged by the populace, tempted by the splendour of the adventure, disregarded the want of rectitude in it, and determined to assist the treacherous assassins with a consular army. Appius Claudius accordingly took the field, and thus commenced the memorable Punic wars, which, after subjecting Sicily to the Roman yoke, at length terminated in the utter destruction of Carthage, the most politic, commercial, and enterprising state on earth.

The Romans have, indeed, attempted to impose on posterity by the writings of their partial historians, and by the destruction of Punic records; but sufficient evidence exists, even in their own statements, to prove, that the Carthaginians*, though charged by those

* Since writing the above, it has been no small satisfaction to me, to observe so intelligent and erudite a writer as Mitford, advance the following opinion:—"It is interesting to find from a prejudiced adversary, for such Diodorus was to the Carthaginians, as well as to Dionysius—this substantial and unsuspicious testimony to the liberality and good faith of a great people, whose fair fame, not, probably, exempt from real stain, has, however, suffered singularly from insidious and base detraction."—MITFORD's *Greece*, Chap. xxxi. Sec. 1.

vindictive enemies with want of fidelity and truth, of courage and talent; and, as being destitute of any other merit than that of being industrious, actually possessed a great genius for enterprise, commerce, and navigation. The expeditions of Himilco, Asdrubal, Mago, Hamilcar, and Hannibal, prove their military skill and bravery; the battles fought in Sicily, Africa, Spain, and Italy; and, above all, the last glorious contention for their city, their wives, and their daughters, although treacherously deprived of their arms and engines; their deities withdrawn by evocation, and their whole state solemnly devoted to the infernal gods; afford incontrovertible proofs of undaunted and resolute spirit. Notwithstanding their political distrust, they were the first who equipped vessels at the public expense, with the express object of exploring foreign countries and settling colonies; and, had their state continued to exist, Columbus, probably, would never have obtained his well-earned celebrity; nor Park, Burckhardt, or Tuckey, have fallen victims in the nineteenth century to our ignorance of the interior of Africa.

By the same evidence, it is also clearly manifest, that the Romans, on whom we generally bestow an admiration too ardent and delusive, were often stimulated rather by superstitious enthusiasm than rational courage; and that they frequently endeavoured to hide their ignorance and terror, under an affected religious awe. Both sexes delighted in scenes of bloodshed, and the appalling horrors of gladiatorial combats; while the works of art that decorated the theatres of these depraved exhibitions, were mostly wrung by extortion, under the forms of tribute and taxes, from enslaved nations, at the expense of generous feeling, to gratify the caprices of licentious and unjust tyrants. Though the Romans, doubtless, possessed enterprise, bravery, patriotism, and generosity, they were insensible to the benevolence, the gallantry, and the scrupulous honour inspired by Christianity; nor in the enumeration of their boasted deeds should it be forgotten, that the fate of Rome itself, at the hands of the Huns, Goths,

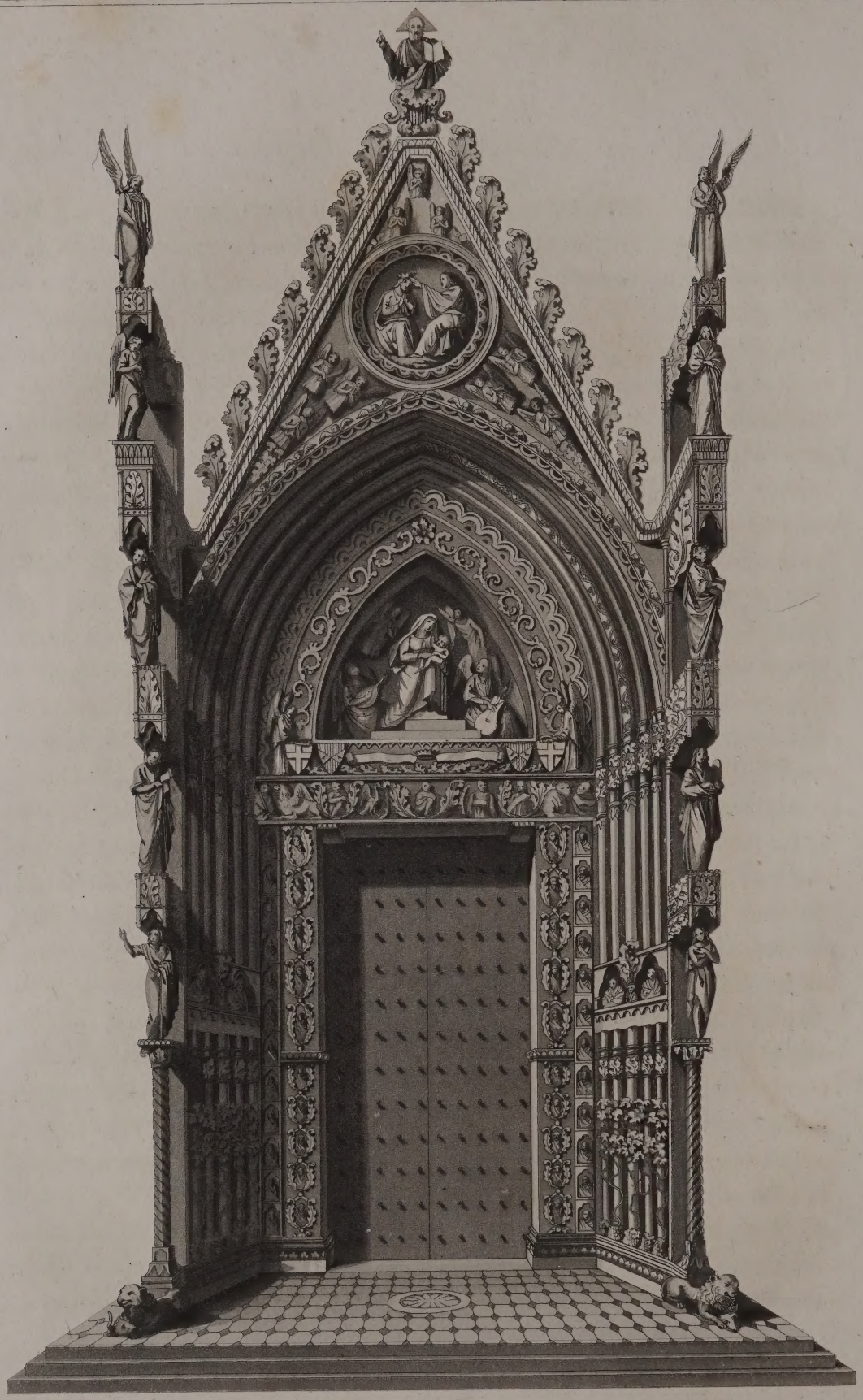
Alemanni, Vandals, and other barbarian hordes, was far milder than the treatment of Carthage, Epirus, Syracuse, Numantia, Corinth, Astapa, and other unhappy cities, at the hands of the Romans, notwithstanding all their affected civilization.

It is surprising how implicitly most people follow the stream, in their ideas of the ancients. The Greeks are a people, whom, by a most fulsome system of panegyric, we are taught almost to idolize; but even in Athens, a city in a remarkable degree the seat of philosophy, science, and taste, the brilliant talents of such men as Solon, Themistocles, Pericles, Phidias, Socrates, and a host of other illustrious individuals, had no effect in moderating the ferocity, profligacy, and ingratitude inherent in the nation, as is proved by the massacres of numerous communities, the despotism of worthless demagogues and sycophants, the disproportionate number of slaves, and the turpitude, desolation, and bloodshed every where perpetrated. I never sighed for a return of what are called the heroic ages; for the state of Athens, even in its highest and most boasted prosperity, must impress upon our minds, when faithfully depicted, the great superiority of the civil and ecclesiastical constitution of Great Britain. Their worship was monstrous and contemptible; their political system, narrow and unprincipled; and though there existed individual virtue, the mass of the people was covetous, idle, and depraved; the liberty, so much extolled, was only a precarious public independence, while law and justice were ill defined, and personal security not regarded. On the other hand, from the obloquy lavished by the Greeks, we entertain a sovereign contempt for the Persians from our very school-days; though, even by the writings of their enemies, we may glean that they were more liberal, generous, and polished than the Greeks themselves. The exaggerations, respecting the forces of Xerxes, are absurd; for no one who has visited the spot can believe, notwithstanding the great king's means, but that five hundred thousand, or one-tenth, at the most, ought to stand for the

"five million two hundred and eighty-three thousand two hundred and twenty men, exclusive of women, children, and eunuchs," who are stated to have reached Thermopylæ. All Greece could not have furnished food for such a multitude, in addition to its own population, for a single month. The heroic bravery of Leonidas (who, by-the-by, fell a victim to a very irrational Spartan law) is constantly in the mind's eye, awakening feelings of patriotism, and hatred of invaders: but let us recur to the ardour of the Greeks themselves for invasion, and to their conduct on such occasions!

It may be doubted, whether the condition of Sicily was, on the whole, more desirable under the Roman yoke than before; for successive governors constantly arrived, to administer foreign laws, and patch up broken fortunes, with greater venality than even that stigmatized in the memorable sarcasm of Jugurtha, "O mercenary city! thou wouldst even sell thyself, if thou couldst find a man rich enough to purchase thee." Nay, with such bold effrontery was this practised, that Verres (though the patron of Messana) publicly robbed an Egyptian prince, who was passing through Sicily, not only of his personal jewels and riches, but also of a precious candelabrum, intended as an offering for the temple of Jupiter in the capitol. The degree of freedom enjoyed by the most favoured cities, may be estimated by the answer of Pompey. When the deputies of one of them reminded him, that the Romans, in consideration of particular services, had solemnly exempted them from various exactions, "Why," demanded he, with a sardonic smile, "will you cite laws and privileges to men who wear swords?"

Of Messana, a city that, from its romantic and advantageous position, was long the scene of important events, no vestiges remain, except a few scattered baths, with tesselated pavements, the church for the souls in purgatory, at the end of Strada Ferdinanda, which is part of a Roman basilica, and that of San Giovanni de' Fiorentini, supposed by the gifted to have been the sacristy of Heius, whence



CATHEDRAL GATE OF MESSINA.

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Verres purloined the beautiful cupid, the bronze Hercules, and the two canephoræ.

The city of Messina, with its forty neighbouring dependent villages, contains a population of seventy-three thousand individuals. It is regularly built, well paved with square blocks of lava, and several of the streets, as those of Ferdinanda, del Corso, and Austria, are wide and handsome, containing numerous churches, convents, and capacious edifices, ornamented in various places with statues and fountains, of which last, that in the cathedral square, from its elegant execution, may rank as the finest in Sicily. In the square of San Giovanni there is a small church, in which the Greek liturgy is still performed by a Protopapá, nominated by the Pope, and is the last institution following that ritual now remaining in the island, although it was formerly the predominant worship. The ceremonies of the Albanians, at the Piana de' Greci, and other colonies in Sicily and Calabria, are considerably less rigid and exact in their adherence to that ritual. The tower of Matagriffone, built by Richard Cœur de Lion, for the purpose of commanding the city, still remains, a monument of the address and ability of that courageous knight. But in various places, particularly about the Marina, the ravages of the disastrous earthquake, of 1783, are yet visible, and seem, by their melancholy appearance, to bear a threatening aspect on the palaces rising around them.

Earthquakes are of very frequent occurrence at Messina, and strangers, surprised by this visitation, should instantly repair to the doorways or windows, by which they are likely to avoid the falling beams, floors, and roofs, these being invariably the first to give way. Some of the new edifices are fitted with very long beams, projecting quite through the walls, but I should fear, when the motion is very great, they would also soon work out.

The cathedral is a heavy, gloomy building, that has been repeatedly damaged by earthquakes; the façade is ornamented with mosaic, and as is usual in most large churches, the Holy Trinity is

typified by three gates, the largest of which is a fine specimen of Gothic art, with spandrils elaborately decorated, and each of the principal pillars rests on lions, as a pedestal. The nave is supported by immense granite columns of unequal dimensions, taken from the ruins of a temple of Neptune at the Faro, which many of the patriotic Messinese maintain was actually that built by Orion for King Zanclus. The great altar is entirely incrusted with agates, jaspers, chalcedonies, lapis lazuli, and other stones in mosaic; and is ornamented with pillars of gilt bronze and huge candelabra. The roof of the choir is lined with coarse ugly mosaic, in the old style, in which the figures rest on a gold ground; but the carving of the stalls has been admired for its appropriate ornaments, and the pulpit (near the tomb of the gloomy Alphonsus II.) is one of the best works of Gaggini, being at once neat and beautiful. Under the body of the church, is a crypt with several altars, dedicated to various saints, and among other paintings is one, asserted to be a copy from St. Luke.

Here, as in the larger churches and convents of some catholic countries, there is a sanctuary for the reception of what are said to be sacred bones, and other food for bigotry. It is a sort of adytum inside a little chapel to the left of the great altar, where, in caskets and phials set in gold and silver, enriched with cut-glass and jewels, are preserved an arm of St. Paul, some blood of St. Mark, the scull of Mary Magdalene, and among other relics, a lock of hair sent by the Virgin Mary to the citizens of Messina, when their deputies returned from Palestine with the celebrated letter; in which, after a preamble wishing them health and benediction, she expresses her satisfaction at their faith, and desires to be perpetually considered as the tutelary patroness of Messina. This letter is dated the 42d year of her son, 1st indiction, 3d of the Nones of June, 26th of the moon, Thursday, Feria V, from Jerusalem, and besides its diplomatic and assuming style, every stage of the date proves it to be a palpable forgery; for counting by indictions was not adopted until three centuries after

THE BARRA OF MESSINA.

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the Assumption of the Virgin, and the practice of dating from the birth of our Lord is later still. It appears, therefore, to be a fraud, in imitation of the letter from our Saviour to Abgarus; but so fully is its authenticity still credited in this city, that many of the most pious persons baptize their sons and daughters by the names of Letterio and Letteria, in honour of the sacred event.

In order that so flattering a distinction may be a source of general joy and festivity, the celebration of the assumption of the Virgin is postponed from the beginning of July to the middle of August; the cessation of agricultural labour at that time, enabling the peasants to resort in crowds to Messina. A magnificent pageant then takes place, called the Fête of the Barra, and occupies three days; when, among other conspicuous objects, the eye is arrested by the incongruous introduction of the giants Mata and Griffone, intended as representations of Zanclus and Rhea. A huge stuffed camel is paraded through the streets, followed by horsemen in the Saracen costume, as a symbol of the expulsion of that race; and a gorgeous galley, constructed at great expense on the basin in St. John's square, commemorates the miraculous arrival of some vessels laden with corn, during a scarcity occasioned by the great concourse of strangers from all parts, to witness this festival, and which, having discharged their cargoes, disappeared. The most curious feature of the whole spectacle is the Barra itself, representing the supposed assumption of the Blessed Virgin, a miracle never thought of until nearly eight hundred years after her death. It is a species of car, about forty feet in height, supported by iron machinery, and fancifully decorated. The base represents a sacred tomb, in which is a choir chanting over the body, while the twelve apostles, collected from all parts of the earth, are in attendance, personated by youths of good families, of from twelve to fifteen years of age; and above them is a circle that revolves horizontally with children attached to it representing angels, under a large sun and moon that turn vertically with six infants, as cherubims, suspended

at the ends of the principal rays. In the centre is a mass of clouds supporting an azure globe with gilt stars, surrounded by other children, in white dresses decorated with various coloured ribbons, as seraphims, and above the whole stands the Almighty, in a rich gold brocade, sustaining on his hand with an extended arm, the soul of the Virgin, personified by a beautiful little girl in white silk pantaloons studded with gold stars. It need scarcely be added, that when this unwieldy machine, with its legion of living angels in rotary motion, is tottering along in procession, attended by nobles, senators, soldiers, priests, and monks, in all their varied costumes, amid colours flying, bands playing, guns firing, and the whole populace praying, crying, and shouting, a most novel and singular scene is presented, and one that but for the palpable blasphemy of it, would be very amusing.

The city of Messina is surrounded by an old irregular wall, finished by Charles V., and commanded at almost every point; but there are two strong and well-built forts above the town, the one called Gonzaga and the other Castellaccio, which would considerably retard the progress of an enemy, and annoy him during any operations against the citadel, as was fully proved in the affair of the Marquess de Lede in the Succession-war. The citadel, a regular pentagon, with a faussebraye and several outworks, is executed on the strict rules of Vauban; but as it was erected to keep the city in awe after a rebellion, the chief strength is rather directed towards the land than the sea-side, and though well provided with quarters, stores, and bomb-proofs, it is badly situated for an extensive military defence, and is, moreover, greatly exposed in several places; but when the English garrisoned it, stout traverses of masonry were erected to prevent the effects of an enfilading fire from the hill forts. The singular nature of the ground renders it impossible to sap, for every pebble is incrusted with a kind of bituminous matter, which cements it to the next, and hardens the whole into a compact mass;

and had the fortress been placed where the light-house stands, agreeably to the desire of the engineer who built it, it would have ranked high in this class of fortifications.

The entrance of the harbour, which is only seven hundred yards wide, is defended on the west side by the bastion of Porta Reale, and on the isthmus by Fort Salvatore, a long irregular structure, being merely a battery united to a flanked line of defence, by a long curtain, strengthened with a moineau. Round the lighthouse, a low and well-built fort is constructed, which has a covert-way of communication with the citadel; and, for the further defence of the city, there are coast batteries and forts from the Faro to Scaletta, placed so as to command the mouths of the Fuimare, which are the only parts where an enemy could land with cannon. It was the efficiency of these means that enabled the British Generals, during the late war, to retain the island, with fourteen thousand men, in presence of thirty-eight thousand French troops under Murat.

Charybdis.—Outside the tongue of land, or Braccio di St. Rainiere, that forms the harbour of Messina, lies the Galofaro, or celebrated vortex of Charybdis, which has, with more reason than Scylla, been clothed with terrors by the writers of antiquity. To the undecked boats of the Rhegians, Locrians, Zancleans, and Greeks, it must have been formidable; for, even in the present day, small craft are sometimes endangered by it, and I have seen several men-of-war, and even a seventy-four-gun ship, whirled round on its surface; but, by using due caution, there is generally very little danger or inconvenience to be apprehended. It appears to be an agitated water, of from seventy to ninety fathoms in depth, circling in quick eddies. It is owing probably to the meeting of the harbour and lateral currents with the main one, the latter being forced over in this direction by the opposite point of Pezzo. This agrees in some measure with the relation of Thucydides, who calls it a violent reciprocation

of the Tyrrhene and Sicilian seas, and he is the only writer of remote antiquity I remember to have read, who has assigned this danger its true situation, and not exaggerated its effects. Many wonderful stories are told respecting this vortex, particularly some said to have been related by the celebrated diver, Colas, who lost his life here; I have never found reason, however, during my examination of this spot, to believe one of them.

The formation of the Tangdora shoals, stretching out on each side of the little kind of bay in which the Galofaro is situated, is probably owing to the eddies of Charybdis; and the sand, being united by the bituminous particles before-mentioned, is as hard as a rock.

Environs of Messina.—To the southward of Messina a fine plain extends from the declivity of the mountains to the beach called "Mare Grosso;" it was the Oplite-dromi of the ancients, and still bears the name of "il Dromo." Here the citizens of Messana were accustomed to witness the celebrated Agonalian Games, whence the epigram,

Ουτ' απο ΜΕΣΣΑΝΑΣ ετ' Αργο δεν εμι παλαιστης.

From thence the country onward towards Scaletta is fine and fruitful, but the summits of the hills being destitute of wood, the scenery is incomplete. The coast is a continuation of villages, gardens, and vineyards, whence Messina is supplied with vegetables, wine, oil, and fruit; besides which, the towns of Contessa, Tremisteri, Bordonaro, and Lardaria, are in a flourishing state, from the good quality of their raw silk; the propagation of the silk-worms having succeeded here ever since their introduction from Greece, by the renowned Count Roger.

It may not be amiss here to notice, that, even in this genial climate, the eggs of these insects are kept in rooms, with long narrow apertures in the wall for the admission of only just sufficient air for their preservation. In April, when the eggs are on the point of being hatched, these slips, or windows, are closed, and, if the weather is

not mild, a slow fire is kept up; this precaution, however, is used only while the eggs are quickening; the incubation being previously accelerated by the women keeping them in their bosoms by day, and under their pillows at night, for a few days before their expected animation. In proportion as the caterpillars are produced, leaves of the white mulberry are strewed over them, upon which they creep; and then are placed in shallow baskets, on a kind of shelves constructed of canes, where they undergo the changes of moulting, during which they are kept clean, and regularly supplied with fresh leaves. As they are extremely voracious, if uninjured by any sudden change of atmosphere, an ounce of eggs will devour, from the time of their hatching to the third and last casting, on an average, fifteen hundred pounds' weight of mulberry leaves. The three changes occupy a space of about forty days, when they commence enveloping themselves in a cocoon or pod. Some of these cocoons are preserved for propagating the species, and in about ten days the chrysalis, having undergone its last transformation, forces its way through one end of the cocoon, and issues forth a heavy, ill-looking moth. The other pods are placed in the sun, or in a slow oven, to kill the chrysalis, and are afterwards, at leisure, thrown into coppers of hot water, for the glutinous particles, by which the filaments adhere, to be dissolved: the raw silk is thus wound off, over glass-hooks, upon reels made for the purpose—an operation that affords a source of livelihood to great numbers of the female peasantry.

Scaletta.—The beach here is broken by a rocky point, with an old watch-tower on it, at the distance of about twelve miles from Messina; and just above it, in a healthy situation, are the upper and lower towns of Scaletta, with a population of seven hundred people. The whole is tolerably well fortified for the command and defence of the Pass, this being the principal road to Messina from the stations along the east coast.

From Capo Grosso, a bluff point, a little beyond Scalletta, to the opposite part of Calabria, called Capo dell' Armi, (known by having two turrets on it, and being under the remarkable serrated hill of Pentedactylus*,) is usually reckoned the end of the Faro channel, though the influence of the current is felt considerably more to the southward.

Alì.—Alì, a town of great antiquity, is situated just inside Cape Grosso, and for ages was in great estimation on account of its mineral waters. It is built on a declivity of Mount Scuderi, the highest of the Neptunean range, and remarkable for the constant wind blowing with some violence out of a cavern near its tabled summit. The baths, so long considered efficacious in cases of palsy, paralytic attacks, and cutaneous disorders, are formed by merely excavating a hole in the sand of the beach in July, which, by percolation, soon becomes full of a chalybeate water, containing sulphur and a small quantity of iron, of the average temperature of 102° of Fahrenheit. At the bottom of the large excavations, several smaller holes are dug, each capable of containing one or two people sitting; some stones are then placed round the edge, to the height of two or three feet, supporting dry boughs as a roof to the simple edifice. The efficacy of the water is thought to be weakened by the first rains, so that it is only in repute for about two months during the height of summer.

* This hill derives its name from its five crags and insulated base, bearing a great resemblance to the human hand; and a castle, about half way up it, is worthy of observation, as the scene of a bloody feud that occurred so lately as about a century ago, in which, by the indiscreet love of the daughter of Alberti, baron of Pentedactylus, a party of deadly enemies, under Montebello, were admitted at night by a secret way into the castle, when an indiscriminate slaughter took place, and the unfortunate girl, with her whole family, were the immediate victims. The castle, though uninhabited, is not yet a ruin, and stains of blood still disfigure the walls of the Baron's bed-chamber, while the iron postern also remains by which the murderous ruffians entered.

Fiume di Nisi.—The coast to the southward of Alì forms a steep bold beach, with several towns and villages prettily interspersed, of which the principal are Savoca, Pagliari, Rocca lu Mera, and Fiume di Nisi; the last is romantically situated under its ancient castle, at the head of the fine large fiumara, anciently called the Chrysothoas, from whence the sheep of Phœbus were stolen by Eurylochus. There are rich mines in this vicinity containing silver, cinnabar, lead, copper, and marcasite, once extensively worked; but various peculations practised on the Government, have caused them to be neglected, though the smelting houses and machinery are still in tolerable condition. A large vein of alum, and another of antimony, are now worked, and yield a considerable profit; and near them is found the chrysocalla, or Sicilian Lapis Lazuli, in abundance.

Forza.—Beyond Savoca is Point St. Alessio, an abrupt bold cliff which, by the only road along this coast leading over it, has complete command of the pass, and is, therefore, of some importance. It has a tower, a barbican, and a telegraph post; united by a causeway, and the whole is in tolerable repair. Above it is the town of Forza, with a respectable castle, but, notwithstanding the height of the situation, it is not free from mal' aria, this subtle vapour frequently occasioning fatal ravages, especially among the young. There were formerly severe damages occasioned by lightning, but, since the British detachment, that was stationed here, attached a conductor to the church, there has been no accident; yet the inhabitants would willingly have taken it down, from the mistaken apprehension of its being injurious by attracting the electric fluid.

From St. Alessio the coast inclines south and by west half west, by the "Fiumare" of Gallo d'Oro, Monguffa, and Peraino, to Capo del Monaco, or Monk's Head; between which and Cape St. Andrèa are several romantic little coves, with many curious rocks of coarse red marble, perforated with large caverns, to which innumerable wild

pigeons resort. Between Cape St. Andrèa (the ancient promontory of Taurus) and Point Schisò, is the Bay of Taormina.

Taormina.—The town of Taormina occupies the site of the ancient Taurominium, and though a place of disputed origin, yet sufficient indications remain to prove it was a very magnificent city; and, indeed, the severe sieges it has sustained, in one of which Dionysius himself was nearly killed, shew that ancient, as well as modern, warriors, considered it an important military post. It was the birth-place of Timæus, the historian, "cased in Sicilian lard;" he was the son of Andromachus, a man of wealth and talent, who seized the government of Taurominium, then vacant by the defeat of the Sicels of Naxus; and he was the only tyrant respected by Timoleon, in his abolition of the petty governments of the island. Although Timæus has been thus stigmatized, his last history of Sicily is so frequently quoted by ancient authors, that it must have been a work of considerable value. Its wines were so famous that they ranked as the fourth in excellence at the banquets in Rome. The present town, though in the midst of the most romantic and matchless scenery, is poor and dirty, with an immoderate proportion of convents and large buildings, and a population of about three thousand five hundred people, who do not enjoy the best health. It is nearly a mile and a quarter in length, but of very unequal breadth. On the fountain, in the main street, part of the statue of a centaur, with the addition of a copper nimbus, now actually stands forth to the public gaze, as St. Pancras, a native of the place, and its tutelary protector.

Taormina is fortified by an irregular wall and lines constructed by the Saracens, but strengthened by the Emperor Charles V.; these are surmounted by an old Saracenic castle with crenated battlements, and a more modern work, to which the ascent is by a serpentine path. Above all, on the summit of a tabled cliff, of difficult

access, stands the town of Mola, which, though a wretched place, with only about four hundred inhabitants, is yet a principality and military post.

The " Laterizio," or remains of the theatre, at Taormina, is one of the finest vestiges of antiquity extant, whether considered with regard to the beauty of its proportions, its construction, or its situation. It was built partly of fine bricks and small stones; and advantage has been taken of a natural recess in the mountain, commanding a magnificent prospect, of which Ætna forms the background. The numerous rows of seats were arranged in three divisions; and, though capable of containing forty thousand spectators, any articulated sound, or even the tearing of a piece of paper on the stage, may even now be distinctly heard throughout the extent of its periphery. It has been much disputed, whether this superb edifice was constructed by the Greeks or the Romans; but the Conoscenti, on a comparison of the mathematical proportions of it with those laid down by Vitruvius, decide for the latter; might not Vitruvius, however, have derived his elements from such buildings?—On the upper part of the semicircle, behind the seats, is a row of niches, which, some antiquarians suppose, were destined to receive statues; others think they contained the " echeia," or copper vases, to render the voices of the speakers more audibly distinct.

Besides this magnificent relic of former ages, there is, in the town, an entire side of a naumachia, upwards of three hundred and fifty feet in length; and at a little distance are the extensive reservoirs that supplied it with water; while in every direction may be traced sepulchres, cenotaphs, tesselated pavements, remains of remarkable edifices, and other vestiges of fallen grandeur, offering, on the whole, a fine field for a systematic excavation.

The descent from Taormina to Giardini is by a beautiful winding road, presenting some of the most striking views in nature at every turn. At the foot of the hill is the Letto-anno fiumara, with a

perennial rivulet meandering along its course, which rises in a picturesque grotto near Mola. On the right bank stands the village of Giardini, a place afflicted with mal' aria, but nevertheless affording a better inn than the town above it. This inn is kept by a noted brigand, who is still in the prime of life, but, having abandoned his erratic excursions, now acts as a guide and "campiere" for Mount Ætna and the adjacent country.

Naxos.—Passing by the statue of a Bishop, on the beach of Giardini, a small projection, with several turrets on it, is approached; this is Point Schisò, and is formed by one of the earliest and longest streams of lava known, having extended to nearly thirty miles from the summit of Ætna. On the extreme part, near an old baronial castle, stands a large battery, joined to a blockhouse, in the rear; by an absurdly-placed barbican, the whole easily assailable, and without magazine, casemates, or store-rooms.

The city of Naxos stood here; it was the earliest of the Grecian settlements, having been founded by Thucles and some Chalcidians of Eubœa, on the first emigration. It was famous for the oracle of Apollo Archagetes, and the temple of Venus Libertina; but it seems to have been more completely annihilated than any other state, for Dionysius razed it, and a course of lava afterwards overspread the country. The site is now covered with gardens and vineyards, though in some spots the lava has not yet shewed many symptoms of decomposition.

The walls of Naxos were washed by the river Onobala, now the Alcantara, and still one of the most considerable streams in Sicily; for, though its course has been frequently obstructed and altered by lavas, (over an antediluvian bed of which it flows,) it still marks the northern boundary of Mount Ætna, and affords the means of conveying a considerable quantity of timber from its woods.

Mascali.—The space between the Alcantara and point Alcorati, is called the district of Mascali, an exuberantly-fertile spot, which, exclusive of grain, timber, and fruit, annually produces ninety thousand pipes of wine. This wine is high-flavoured, but universally polluted with an infusion of burnt gypsum; for, owing to the too free admission of atmospheric air, and mismanagement in the fermentation, it would otherwise become acid. Another kind of lime, used for the same purpose, is made on the spot, there being, in this vicinity, a quantity of calcareous matter and marine deposits lying on beds of antedeluvian lava; a curious evidence that the sea has actually, in some convulsion or other, been considerably higher than its present level.

There is a curious old Saracenic tower, called the Castellum Bidais, and several other remains in the town of Mascali, a place rapidly decaying, while several of its dependant villages are thriving and increasing in proportion; particularly those of Giarre and Riposto, which last, only twenty years ago, was a mere loading-place belonging to Mascali, with a tower surrounded merely by a few cane huts like Indian wigwams, for the labourers to live in. But in consequence of the address and industry of a few individuals, its population has increased so as to rival its principal, to which it refuses all further allegiance, though attempted to be retained by virulent litigations, and great personal struggles. The new town of Riposto is constructing on a neat and regular plan, and the principal street is to extend to Giarre, a flourishing place, with a handsome new church, and which has shared in all the disputes with Mascali. Riposto has a small fortification to cover its bad anchorage, consisting of a battery and tower, which, with the prison attached to them, are in tolerable repair.

Between the Alcantara and Riposto is a loading place called Casa Cottone, where timber and grain are embarked; and near it is the curious stream called the Fiume Freddo, the waters of which have

been reported to be poisonous; I have drunk heartily of them, however, without experiencing any pernicious effect, and the fish caught in it are very fine. It is curious, that though this river is excessively cold, it has never been known to freeze. Many Sicilian antiquaries wish to recognise here the scenes of the loves of Acis and Galatea, and of the Bucolics of Daphnis; but I think the Acque Grandi, at Aci Reale, have greater pretensions, as the being covered by a bed of lava explains the fable of the large rock, hurled by the love-sick Polyphemus, overwhelming poor Acis. The fiume Freddo has but a very short course from the mountain, and was, perhaps, the ancient Asinius.

Aci Reale.—Passing the fishing-villages of Pizzulo and Lo Stazzo, we approach Point Tocco, a precipitous mass of basaltic lava, which is converted into a mole, and forms a small port, called the Marina of Aci, where there are some excellent store-houses. A fine road, called "La Scala," leads up to the town, situated about eight hundred feet above the sea; it is supported on arches, and constructed with great labour and expense, through ten alternate strata of lava and earth. Near the summit is a sconce, called the Bastione del Tocco, intended to defend the anchorage and causeway; but it is badly contrived, and, although defiladed to the hill above, is commanded by the land around, and does not command the sea.

Aci Reale is founded on extensive streams of lava, in a healthy situation and fertile country, and was the garrison of the Consul Aquilæus in the Servile War. It is a clean and regularly-built town, of about fourteen thousand inhabitants, with many churches, convents, and public buildings; the whole giving evidence of an industrious population. The fair in July, in honour of Santa Venera, its tutelary patroness, is the busy time; for then, notwithstanding the processions and illuminations, a brisk trade is carried on in wine, fruit, gold filigree work, cotton, flax, and diaper; the last being

bleached in great quantities on the plain below the town, on the banks of the Acque Grandi. The process of bleaching is merely alternately steeping the linen in the sea, and drying it in the sun, until it has acquired the requisite whiteness; a sort of steatite is used in the bucking, resembling hard fullers' earth, smooth to the touch, yet so detergent, as to answer the purose of soap. The adroit manner in which the women gather up the linen, and place it in folds on their heads, without assistance, is at once curious and dexterous.

Bay of La Trezza.—The promontory of lava, on the extreme of which Aci Reale stands, is the stream that burst from Ætna in the second Punic War, and stopped the march of the Tauromínian troops, who were advancing to the succour of the Syracusans. It is now called Cape Molino, and between it and Pyramid Point, a picturesque bay is formed, at the north end of which is the unhealthy village of St. Anna, and more to the southward the town and "caricatore," or privileged loading-place, of La Trezza, a town built entirely of lava, the very dark hue of which, contrasted with the white-washed lintels and door-posts of the houses, has a singular appearance. It does not contain more than eight hundred inhabitants, although a place of some traffic; it has a small fort and a turret for its defence, with a tolerable church and market. In and about this bay was fought the desperate battle between the Carthaginians under Mago, and the Syracusans under Leptines, in which the fleet of Dionysius lost a hundred galleys, and had twenty thousand men killed.

Directly off La Trezza stand the Faraglioni, the Cyclopum Scopuli of the ancients: they are huge masses of prismatic and amorphous lava intermixed; and are fabled by tradition to have been hurled by Antiphates at the fleet of Ulysses. They have a bold and singular appearance; I sailed between the large Cyclop and the high columnar one, in a clear channel of nine fathoms water. The outer rock to

the westward, usually called the Isle of Acis, is remarkable for its more advanced decomposition, so as to allow of the cultivation of a few vines and a little barilla; there is a large cistern on it, a grotto, and the remains of some ancient dwellings. The basalts that form the Cyclops are mostly vertical, and consist of prisms of from four to eight sides. They abound with beautiful lucid zeolites of great variety in the angles and faces of their crystallization. The interstices of the highest basalts are filled by filtration, with a white calcareous substance; and the summits of some, at the height of about sixty feet, are capped with lime: the general height of the rock itself is about two hundred feet. From this islet, the outer point of Catania bears W. 47° S., distant about five miles.

About a mile and a half to the south-westward of the Cyclops, stands Aci Castello, on an enormous cliff of lava, rising vertically in columns of cellular basalt from the sea. This town contains about seven hundred inhabitants; and, though it is irregular and dirty, and the remains of ancient edifices are few, still, with its castle, its steeples, and grotesque volcanic masses, it is extremely picturesque, and well worthy of a visit.

L'Ognara.—From hence to Point Armisi is a black rocky coast, indented with numerous caverns, some of which present very singular natural cubical arcades, supported by square pilasters. There are two bays, or rather large coves, the one called L'Ognara, (formerly the port of Ulysses, but filled up by the eruption of 1381,) and the other Galita, whence a great quantity of squared lava is annually exported for building and paving.

Gulf of Catania.—From La Trezza Bay to Cape Santa Croce, a distance of eighteen miles, in the direction of S. 12° 30′ W., is called the Gulf of Catania; the north coast of which is bounded by the dreary lavas of Ætna, the centre by the sandy beach of the

Plain of Catania, and the south part by the calcareous rocks of La Bruca.

The port of Catania is generally full of small craft, that resort thither for corn, maccaroni, potatoes, olives, figs, silk, wine, almonds, cheese, oil, soda, manna, cantharides, amber, snow, and lava. The active commerce of the place is such as to merit a far superior harbour.

Catania.—Catania is not only one of the most ancient, but also one of the most respectable and literary cities in the island; and, for its size, perhaps, of Europe. The natives claim Deucalion and Pyrrha as founders of their city; but, without adverting to fabulous tradition, it was probably settled originally by the Sicani, who were expelled by the Tyrians. The Tyrians, in their turn, were driven out by the Siculi; and the Siculi by a colony from Chalcis, under Evarchus, a follower, I believe, of Thucles, who had established himself at Naxos six years before. This event occurred about seven hundred and fifty-three years before Christ, after which Catana partook of the vicissitudes of the other Greek colonies; but, in addition to the calamities of war, it has been so dreadfully ravaged by volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, (of which last, seven severe shocks were on record previous to the visitation of 1818,) that it is difficult to assign limits to the space it has occupied. From the existing remains of its amphitheatre, hippodrome, theatre, odeum, naumachia, and gymnasium, and its temples, aqueducts, and baths, it must have been very extensive; while, from its laws and customs, as detailed in history, it must have been highly civilized *.

Science also must have made some progress; for when Valerius

* Charondas, the great legislator, who considered ignorance as the source of vice, ordained, that whosoever proposed the enactment of a new law, or the abrogation of an old one, should, at the same time, appear with a halter about his neck, and death was to follow a rejected proposal.

Messala subjugated this city in the first Punic War, amongst pictures, statues, and other pillage, which he collected, he sent a solar dial to Rome, which, though computed for the latitude of Catania, was placed on the rostrum, and continued in use no less than ninety-nine years. Before this event, there were tables of the hours for every month, which enabled the Romans to estimate the time of day, by measuring the proportion of the length of the foot to the shadow cast by the body; the time from sun-rise to sun-set, and again, from sun-set to sun-rise, was divided into twelve hours, necessarily varying in duration, though noon and midnight were always the sixth hour.

Catania has a noble appearance from the sea; and, what is rare in an Italian town, the effect is not diminished on landing; for the streets are regular, spacious, and handsome, and the numerous churches, convents, palaces, and public establishments, principally constructed of lava, faced with a magnesian limestone from Malta and Syracuse, and enriched with marbles plundered from the ruins, are magnificent.

I was informed, whilst admiring the imposing air of the streets and buildings of this city, that the earthquake of 1693 so nearly destroyed the whole of it, that the Duke of Camastro, (who was sent from Palermo to superintend the re-building,) caused the little that remained to be taken down, that no impediment might obstruct the new plans, which reflect great honour on his taste; for, certainly, wide streets, and numerous squares, are best adapted for a place liable to such awful convulsions of nature. It must, however, be allowed, that, in many parts, the architecture is laboured, and the ornaments too profuse, while the principal streets, lying parallel to the cardinal points of the compass, receive the full glare of the meridian sun, which produces an almost insupportable heat. The city is also destitute of defence, excepting the remnant of an old bastion over the mole, mounting two guns, and the Castle Ursino,

an old square fort with round towers, which was formerly on the sea-shore, but, owing to the encroachment of lava on the sea, is now surrounded by houses, and unfit even for a musquetry-post. The frequent re-building of this city is surprising after its numerous disasters, especially on a spot so liable to instant destruction, so defenceless, and so destitute of the advantages of harbour and highway, or any river, except the Gurrida—a small erratic stream, that, losing itself in a lake near Randazzo, re-appears here under the name of Judicello, and, by overflowing, has often occasioned an epidemic sickness.

The privileges of Catania are very extensive: its representatives have precedence in parliament, and its tribunals (under the administration of a Patrician captain and three judges) are independent of Palermo. Its population amounts to seventy-four thousand people, and in the number and respectability of its nobles, it is only exceeded by the capital. In general, all ranks have a better and more cheerful appearance than in other Sicilian cities; their domestic and social intercourse is less corrupted, and their easy manners, and polite decorum, are extremely pleasing to strangers. On many occasions they have shewn a singular unanimity in public affairs; and as instances of good sense, it must be remembered, that they had the courage to practise inoculation as early as 1742, when all the rest of the island had an utter aversion to its adoption; and that they planted the potato, while an ignorant prejudice against it existed among all their neighbours.

The charitable institutions of Catania are numerous and respectable, and include hospitals for the maimed, the sick, and the destitute, with an asylum for orphans, and several schools for education. The Magdalen establishment, under the name of Santa Maria del Lume, supported by voluntary contributions, is divided into three classes; the first includes unprotected girls, who are in danger of falling into vice; the second, the penitents; and the third, the pro-

fligate. The whole are obliged to work, to assist in supporting the institution; and those of the first and second classes, who acquire habits of cleanliness and industry, are placed out either as domestic servants, or in manufactories, while those of the third are kept constantly at task-work. Another beneficial foundation, though by some thought an encouragement to depravity, is the Bambino, or lying-in hospital, which, although it has not yet been instituted many years, has already preserved the lives of two thousand infants, many of whom might probably have been sacrificed to save the character of the mothers. The Albergo de' Poveri, a house fitted up for the reception of a certain number of the wretched and maimed of both sexes, had an annual revenue of about three hundred pounds bequeathed to it by the good Bishop Ventimiglia, (even after he had quarrelled with the senate and resigned his see,) to be employed in commerce, and the profits applied as might be deemed most beneficial. The College of Arts, with a revenue of about two thousand pounds, formerly belonged to the Jesuits, but on their expulsion was converted into an establishment for the education of forty sons of artisans, who are instructed in any trade they may prefer, and have daily an hour and a quarter's tuition in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Notwithstanding these various charities, the benevolence of such men as Ventimiglia, Deodato, Carcaci, and Cesira, and the constant exertions of the active priests "della Lettera," the disgraceful peculations of some of the administrators of donations, destroy the intended effects of the best bequests, and occasion many deserving objects to remain destitute. The priests, indeed, say they alleviate distress by privately sending money to those who could not forego the profit of their daily labour to attend the distribution of alms, and to such whose feelings do not permit them to accept of public charity; but this benevolence, if it is practised at all, is difficult to be ascertained.

The cathedral is one of the principal buildings, and highly attractive; it is situated on the side of a spacious and airy square, with a fine fountain in the centre, surmounted by an elephant* of lava, bearing on its back an obelisk of Egyptian granite covered with hieroglyphics, the story of which is lost. This cathedral was founded by Angerius, an English abbot, in 1094; but being nearly destroyed in the fatal earthquake of 1693 †, (by which fifty thousand of the inhabitants perished,) it was rebuilt on a simple yet grand design, and its façade, ornamented with the beautiful granite columns of the ancient theatre. Previous to this disaster, it was dedicated to the Virgin; but, afterwards, the merits of St. Agatha, the tutelary patroness, (who was martyred here by Quintianus, in the reign of Decius,) became so apparent, that it was determined the decision of the consecration should be left to the drawing of lots, when fortune favoured the latter, who has ever since had periodical festivals, illuminations, and grand processions, in honour of herself and her veil. The Catanians, indeed, are remarkable for the number of their festivals, and in that of St. Agatha, (who has also a pompous car,) they rival the Palermitans and the Messinese. But, in the ceremonies of the Holy Week, their bigotry becomes disgusting; for, on Good Friday, the Senators, in melancholy procession, with crowns of thorns on

* Could this have given rise to the adoption of the same unappropriate emblem for Buonaparte's grand fountain at Paris?

† The horrors and devastations of this disastrous visitation have scarcely ever been equalled. Palermo, Messina, Troina, Randazzo, Nicosia, Aidone, Aci, Paternò, Lentini, Adernò, Caltabiano, Syracuse, Sortino, Noto, Ferla, Caltagirone, and many others, of the finest towns and cities, were almost destroyed. Coronelli, speaking of Ætna, says, "But, in 1693, the cessation of the mournful tragedy of its flames was the prelude to the "still more afflicting Iliad of a horrible earthquake, which took place on the 9th and 11th "of January of the above-mentioned year, and buried in a chaos of ruins a great part of "Sicily, to which may justly be applied the words of the poet,

Luctus ubique, pavor, et plurima mortis imago,

"since there did not remain a spot in the valley of Noto, or that of Emona, especially "near Ætna, which did not experience the rigour of this visitation."

their heads, and ropes round their necks, walk to the cathedral, where a man, with a false forked beard tied on, profanely personates the Saviour of the world, and crosses and blesses every thing in his way.

The Monte di Pietà, the senatorial palace, and most of the municipal establishments, are fine and appropriate edifices; and the market-place is a handsome octangle, ornamented with a covered portico and marble columns. In the church of Sta. Maria dell' Ajuto, is a fac-simile of the Holy House of Loretto; it is forty feet long, twenty wide, and twenty-six high, with the sides divided into compartments by antæ, fluted one-third of their height, between which are marble bas reliefs, representing its miraculous voyage and several scriptural events, and further decorated with statues of the Apostles and the Sibyls. The inside minutely represents every brick, and every remnant of painted stucco; the window, at which the angel of the Annunciation appeared, and the homely kitchen of the Virgin; the whole exhibiting an instance of the absurd expenses bigotry may lead an enthusiast into, for this was all done at the individual cost of an old canon, who, about seventy years ago, sent an architect to Italy, to take the proportions and models.

Not far from thence is the little church of the Madonna della Rotonda, by some thought to have been a pantheon, and by others a bath; but now occupied by some Franciscans, who secure to themselves a decent income by inducing the lower orders of people to subscribe a monthly sum, on condition of providing them with a physician during illness, of giving them a decent interment, and, finally, of repeating a number of masses for the repose of their souls.

In the old church of St. Agata delle Sante Carceri, is preserved an altar-piece representing the Martyrdom of that Virgin, one of the most antique paintings I can call to my recollection; it is inscribed, "Bernardinus Niger Grecus faciabat, 1388." It is more valuable for its age than its merit, of which, however, it is not wholly destitute;

and it is rendered still more interesting by a representation of the amphitheatre, that has since been overwhelmed by lava.

The university, founded, in 1445, by Alphonso of Arragon, is an extensive foundation, with an annual revenue of upwards of two thousands pounds: it educates, under able professors, about five hundred students, who, together, with the citizens in general, enjoy great advantage from its excellent public library, it being always open except on the usual holidays. The nomination to professorships appears to be well conducted here, for on a chair becoming vacant, two months' notice is given over the whole island, that a new election is to take place, mentioning, at the same time, the works from which the inaugural thesis is to be taken. On the day appointed, the candidates assemble in the fine hall of the University, where the bishop, as chancellor, and all the professors, are collected, and where they are each assigned a table, pens, ink, and several sheets of paper, which are signed by the chancellor, to prevent the exhibition of previously composed themes. The professors then depart, but the bishop remains until the solutions are completed, and handed to him, when a day is appointed for selecting the most meritorious; on this occasion the professors are locked up until they shall have decided, but, as they occasionally differ during many hours, refreshments are allowed them. The salaries attached to the chairs are very trifling, notwithstanding most of the occupants are really men of merit, and considerable talent; and, for this pittance, they are required to lecture an hour every day, except the professors of chemistry, surgery, and physic, who, to prepare the necessary demonstrations, are expected to lecture only twice in a week. Degrees in medicine are conferred after a public examination, in which the candidate attends with a bag-wig and sword, and having gabbled over the "Professionis Fidei," is embraced by the Proto Medico, and a diamond ring (brought by the candidate for the purpose,) being put on his finger, he is borne to his house in triumph, attended by a band of music.

No fees are paid by the students, but the degrees are highly taxed by the Government. The professors are very attentive to the progress of all branches of literature, and, among their own body, have produced several eminent works.

In April, 1814, funereal honours were paid to the memory of the late Geremìa, a favourite musical composer of Catania; they commenced with harangues, pronounced by the members of the University, assembled in presence of the principal nobility. After these were concluded, each repeated a sonnet, the last verse of the first being taken up by the person next in place, and continued thus through the circle, after the manner of the amœbeum carmen of the ancients. The evening ended with a grand concert, the greater part of the music consisting of choice pieces, selected from the works of the deceased.

The Benedictine Convent of San Nicolò d'Arena has long been justly celebrated for its vast extent, superb church, excellent organ, large museum, ancient mosaic, and great riches. But the foundation having been defective, and since damaged by earthquakes, this massy pile, esteemed, next to the Convent of Mafra *, the largest monastic institution in Europe, can never be completed; a circumstance that, together with various instances of bad taste, destroys great part of its interest. It is curious that the lava of the dreadful eruption of 1669, which destroyed the habitations of twenty-seven thousand people, flowed round this convent at the distance of a few feet, without damaging it, occasioned, probably, by the pressure of air between the two great bodies. On the rugged surface of the lava the monks have, at great labour and expense, constructed a

* The convent of Mafra, in Portugal, is on an eminence, near the coast of Estremadura: it has a front of eight hundred and thirty feet in length, and its steeples are two hundred and forty feet high. From its singular eligibility for a land-mark, it became one of my points on that coast, and marks nearly the mid-distance between Montejunto and the rocky crags of Cintra.

garden in the Dutch style, with several small fountains, and walks of glazed bricks in mosaic, and tesselated ornaments in lava and white stone. This flowing mass, (a branch only of the principal stream, that, among clouds of smoke and vapour, and with a noise much louder than thunder, was forcing its fiery course into the sea below,) after filling the moat round the city walls, appeared to be arrested in its progress by their strength, till its accumulated weight made a breach, and with irresistible force then flowed through.

There are several museums in the city, originating in the spirit and liberality of its natives, of whom the grandfather of the present Prince of Biscari, the pride of Catania, was the principal. His collection was one of the richest in Europe, and contained rare and beautiful sculpture, medals, gems, vases, ollæ, lectisternia, bronzes, stelæ, emblems of the worship of the god Abraxis, and palæographic inscriptions; but his degenerate son and grandson have permitted sad ravages and disorder; and by the introduction of various trifles, have formed an incongruous mixture of good and bad, of modern and antique. The university, as well as Recupero, Ferrara, Giojeni, and other individuals, have also formed cabinets; so that the whole together afford the stranger an opportunity of examining a complete collection of curious specimens in every branch of the natural history, arts, and antiquities of Sicily.

The environs of Catania, except those parts overrun by the lava of 1669, are fertile and well cultivated; but from the volcanic nature of the soil, have a repulsive and black appearance, and as there are no good roads, all the carriage drives are necessarily confined to the streets. About a mile from the city, stands the Labyrinth, a curious garden, constructed by the enterprising Prince of Biscari, above-mentioned, who also attempted a public road and walk, (a luxury much wanted at Catania,) on another dreary lava. He commenced this during a famine, and afterwards continued employing a multitude of the poorer classes on it for eight years, carrying thither the

earth that he excavated from the ancient ruins; but as he died before its completion, it has fallen into the same neglect with his other undertakings, though some fish-ponds, a few remaining trees and houses, and several excellent walks, attest the good design and magnitude of this Villa Rascosa.

Mount Ætna.—The name of Ætna was most probably derived from Aituna, as being a reservoir of molten matter; and under this denomination it has been celebrated by historians, poets, and naturalists, from the remotest antiquity to the present day; although the uneducated natives have no other appellation for it than Mon Gibello, a corruption of the Gibbel Uttamat, or mountain of fire, of the Saracens. It is one of the most stupendous and wonderful volcanoes in the world, combining at once pleasing picturesque prospects and dismal horrors, majesty, beauty, and wide-stretching desolation; and yet such are its climate, fertility, and resources, that notwithstanding its constant threatenings, it is thickly studded with towns and villages, and is inhabited by an industrious race, consisting of more than an hundred and forty thousand people.

From numerous strata of marine deposits having been found above ancient beds of lava, and others also, intermixed with isolated fragments of volcanic substances, theories have been framed to prove that the fires had commenced, when their source was below the surface of the water, and that, consequently, it is a self-created mountain; while others maintain that these exuviæ originate from the sea having once been greatly above its present level *. Be this as it may, we have evidence, that the ocean has not receded much during two thousand five hundred years, and that Ætna, as far as history, or

* An old Sicilian author, treating of Ætna, remarks, "Those who distilled sweat in the investigation of the origin of so formidable a wonder, after having worn out their minds in speculations, concluded, that its cause was only known to God."

even mythology, reaches, was considered of a vast height and magnitude: thus Enceladus, the most powerful of the Titans, was represented as being confined under it after the war of the Giants; and Pindar calls it the nurse of eternal snows, and the prop of heaven. These, of course, are no proofs, but they shew the consideration in which this mountain was held in the earliest ages; and history informs us, that Plato, Empedocles, and Hadrian, repaired thither to observe the phenomena, and enjoy the extensive view, which, from its insulated situation, and extended base, is commanded from the summit *.

Although I had previously visited and examined several minor volcanoes, an object so interesting as Ætna naturally occupied a great share of my attention; and, from the frequent opportunities that my duty with the Sicilian flotilla afforded me, I was enabled to determine its position, and to construct a plan of it, with some degree of accuracy. By means of several stations, bearing east and west, and north and south, the latitude of the highest point of the bifid peak over the great crater is 37° 43′ 31″ north, and the longitude 15° east of Greenwich. The height, by a base line, measured on the plain of Catania, was eleven thousand two hundred and ninety feet; that, by barometrical measurement, nearly twelve thousand; and by a boiling-water apparatus, compared with Dalton's Table of the Force of Vapour, it appeared considerably more; but the first of these was uncertain in several of its corrections, the second can only be deemed an approximation, and the third an experiment. I therefore deduce the height according to a base line trigonometrically estimated on the sea, during a calm, from stasimetric points previously ascertained on shore, and the subtended angles carefully corrected for error of instrument and refraction: this operation gives ten thousand eight hundred and seventy-four feet for the height, seven hundred and ninety-

* It is supposed by some, that Virgil also visited this mountain.

five thousand eight hundred and four feet, or about one hundred and fifty miles, for the radius of vision, and 1° 43′ 06″ for the angle of inclination of the visible horizon with the true. This I consider as the best and most practicable method of obtaining its altitude, next to that of levelling, a process I could not spare time to perform.

The base of the mountain is well defined by the sea, and by the rivers Giaretta and Alcantara, and is about eighty-seven miles in circumference, with its greatest diameter extending from east to west. The ascent is very various on its different sides; that from Catania being about twenty-four miles, from Linguagrossa eighteen, and from Randazzo scarcely twelve. The extent of the base gives so easy an inclination to the sides, in most places, as greatly to facilitate the ascent; but, at the same time, it diminishes the grandeur of its aspect at first sight, and its commanding elevation is scarcely perceived, until the traveller has got nearly half way up, and begins to look down on the rest of Sicily, while the summit still seems as far from him as at first; then, indeed, the mountain assumes an appearance so noble, majestic, and imposing, that, associated with the considerations of its cause and effects, it excites the most intense interest, mixed with a degree of awe that elevates the mind, and inspires sublime feelings.

Ætna is divided by nature into three distinct parts, or zones, distinguished by the appellations of the fertile, the woody, and the desert regions; each materially differing from the other in aspect, climate, and produce.

The first region comprises the delightful country round the skirts of the mountain, and is very unequal in its dimensions, being in many parts from six to nine miles wide, and above Catania, nearly eleven; while, on the northern side, where the woods encroach, it is little more than a mile and a half. The whole is well cultivated, and thickly inhabited, with tolerable means of communication be-

tween the towns and villages. The soil is decomposed lava, consisting of argil, mixed with various kinds of triturated scoriæ, and beds of tufa; the last is an aggregation of volcanic substances produced by humidity, and often occasioned by the falling of heavy rain through clouds of ashes, during an eruption. This soil is easily worked, and extremely productive, yielding the finest corn, oil, wine, fruit, and aromatic herbs, in Sicily. The inhabitants, however, of many of these districts, from the numerous minute particles of volcanic dust that fly about, severely injuring and disfiguring their eyes, and soiling their persons, their furniture, and their houses, have a squalid, slovenly, and dejected appearance. These circumstances, with the want of water, and the numerous arid patches of lava amidst the surrounding vegetation, leave such a paradise little to be envied. In addition to these inconveniences, the constant danger of losing both landed and moveable property by an eruption, must be borne in mind; a disaster, compared with which, earthquakes, hurricanes, plagues, and other visitations, are light, as these may be counteracted in a few years, whilst the other destroys for ages.

To this part succeeds the woody region, an extensive forest of about six or seven miles in width, encircling the mountain, and affording abundant pasturage to the numerous flocks and herds that are fed there. The woods are irregularly distributed, according to the ravages of the burning lava, and the impolitic destruction of them by the natives. The neighbourhood of Maletto is richly clothed with fine oaks, pines, and poplars; above Nicolosi and Milo are produced stunted oaks, with fir, beech, cork, hawthorn, and bramble; and in the districts of Mascali and Piraino, there are groves of cork, and luxuriant chestnut trees. The vicinity of Bronte abounds with pines of great magnitude; but the Carpinetto boasts that father of the forest, the venerable "Castagno di cento cavalli," supposed to be the oldest tree in the world. It appears to consist of five large and two smaller trees, which, from the circumstance of the bark and

boughs being all outside, are considered to have been one trunk originally; some say, the two smaller ones are saplings, planted purposely to complete the circle; the peasants strongly affirmed that the roots, having been inspected, were found to be in common, but not having had the means or permission myself, of examining further into the fact, I could not form a decided opinion. The largest trunk is thirty-eight feet in circumference, and the circuit of the whole five, measured just above the ground, is one hundred and sixty-three feet; it still bears rich foliage, and much small fruit, though the heart of the trunks is decayed, and a public road leads through them. Some other trees, of the same species, and of a very large size, are spread over the adjacent grounds; a vigour to be attributed, perhaps, to the quantity of nitrous particles contained in the soil of this part of the mountain, assisted by the decay of the numerous vegetable substances that flourish so luxuriantly around. Nothing can be more picturesque or romantic than several parts of this region; and the beneficial influence of its cool, refreshing temperature, is extremely grateful, when contrasted with the heat of the lower zone. Several extensive caverns have been formed by the action of gases and subsequent atmospheric erosion, among which, one is well known by the name of the Goat's Grotto, where travellers, on their ascent, formerly rested; but it has been neglected since the erection of the more convenient shelter higher up the mountain, called the English House.

The desert region is a melancholy waste of black lava, scoriæ, and ashes, in the centre of which, on a kind of desolate plain, rises the cone, to the height of about eleven hundred feet, the grand vent, that even in its calmest moments, is still the awful index of the state of the great fiery abyss below; presenting to the mind the terrific sources of destruction, misery, and famine. Immediately under the cone, stands the edifice above alluded to, erected at the expense of the British officers who were stationed in Sicily, containing rooms and

stabling; a great convenience to those travellers who resort to it in the proper season, but during the greater part of the year a single snow-storm is sufficient to overwhelm it. Not far from this house, are the slight vestiges of a brick building, absurdly called the Philosopher's Tower, from the supposition of its having been the dwelling of Empedocles, though others, with more reason, think it was a place constructed for the accommodation of the Emperor Hadrian; it is clear, however, that the materials are of a very remote age.

The best season for ascending this mountain, is during the full moons that occur between the middle of June, and the first autumnal rains. The latter assume the form of snow on the summit; and the peasants below attentively observe whether the east or west side is covered earliest, because, in the former case, they expect a wet season, and in the latter, a dry one. After the equinox, the weather again becomes settled, and the journey is practicable and easy until the middle of October. The ascent from Catania, through Nicolosi, to the English house, is effected on mules with the greatest facility, or even in a "lettiga;" but from thence to the top of the cone is a very fatiguing achievement. The obstacles are numerous; the surface, towards the summit, is frequently so hot, as to make even resting inconvenient, and the materials being only scoriæ, pozzolana, and triturated ashes, occasion the foot to sink and recede more or less at every step.

All the toils, however, are amply compensated on arriving at the desired point, a station inspiring at once delight and awe; and though from the change of climate, (amounting to upwards of 50° of Fahrenheit,) from the nitrous vapours, and from the rarefaction of the air, oppression and indisposition are sometimes felt, those sensations quickly wear off, and leave the mind in the full enjoyment of this glorious scene. Travellers usually arrange so as to arrive at the English house in the evening, when the dead silence between the occasional intonations of the volcano, the total seclusion from "the

busy haunts of men," the brilliant stars sparkling in the pure ether above, unveiled by terrestrial mists, the mantling clouds excluding the view of the world beneath, all combine to create a high tone of feeling, and to inspire the imagination with an extraordinary warmth of colouring. It is highly gratifying in the morning, to watch the transitions from the twilight before sun-rise, to the bright effulgence of the full orb of day; to mark the progressive expansion of the superb panorama that breaks on the view; to trace the effects of a peculiarly brilliant light, and the powers of refraction, which show the varied objects with a distinctness and precision that produce an almost magical effect. I was induced, on my second visit, by a desire to avail myself of the translucid atmosphere, to take a theodolite, and observe the direction of various points; having failed to do so on my first journey, owing to the indisposition of my friend and companion, Captain Henryson, of the Royal Engineers, arising from a violent ejection of dense and sulphureous smoke, while we were exposed to all its influence.

The crater, formed by the progressive accumulation of sand and ashes, is, from its nature, liable to constant changes; it was, on my last visit, surrounded by four eminences, the two northernmost of which were the largest, and formed the bifid summit. The upper periphery is an oval, stretching from east and by north to west and by south, with a conjugate diameter of four hundred and ninety-three yards. I was prevented from ascertaining the transverse by a dense cloud that arose before my operations were completed. From the edge of the crater, the interior, through successive strata of volcanic substances, is incrusted with various coloured efflorescences of ammonia, sulphur, and martial vitriolic salts, to the depth of about a hundred yards on the east, but considerably less on the west side. The efflorescences of a beautiful orange yellow are the most predominant. The bottom of the crater is plain, and tolerably hard, though, from being composed of loose cinders, the feet sink in some places. Near

the centre, are two mounds of scoriæ and ashes, each with a large aperture at the summit, and several fissures around, from whence, at intervals, issue volumes of thick smoke, with a rumbling noise and hissing sound. There is also a light thin vapour, occasionally oozing from the bottom and sides of the huge amphitheatre, in every direction. I endeavoured to look into the principal chasm, but the rapid ejection of the cinders, and the strong sulphureous vapours that exuded, prevented me from attaining my object; and, indeed, I could not but feel apprehensive that a nearer approach, where the footing was so frail, might prove too hazardous; besides which, the heat and smoke had increased to such a degree, that it was high time to regain the summit.

I afterwards walked round the Piano del Lago, (so called from melted snows having once formed a lake there,) adjacent to the cone, and noticed that the report of the prevalence of a southerly wind, generally blowing fresh and bleak in this elevated region, was not without foundation; the vapour being driven to the northward, falls in the form of water on that side, and has worn many small gulleys which the rains deepen into ravines as they descend; and, in the neighbourhood of Mascali, these fissures are so large, as to appear rather the effect of some great convulsion of nature, than the gradual operation of slow causes; yet it is by such agency alone, that the interior structure of Ætna is partially made known to us.

While making these observations, on a sudden, the ground trembled under our feet, a harsh rumbling, with sonorous thunder, was heard, and volumes of heavy smoke rolled over the side of the crater, while a lighter one ascended vertically, with the electric fluid escaping from it in frequent flashes in every direction. The shortness of the time that had elapsed since I was in the crater, rendered me thankful for so providential an escape; but even from the spot on which we stood, it was necessary to remove, with the utmost expedition, and before we could effect our retreat, we were overtaken by a disagreeable, cold,

humid cloud, that annoyed and retarded our progress. During some time, the ground shook so violently, that we apprehended the whole cone would tumble into the burning gulf (as it actually had done several times before), and destroy us in the horrible consequences; however, in less than a couple of hours, all was again clear above and quiet within. The guide, indeed, did not seem to enter into our apprehensions, remarking, though he appeared to be one of the most ignorant of mortals, that it was only the giant turning himself!

The symptoms which precede an eruption, are generally irregular clouds of smoke, ferilli, or volcanic lightnings, hollow intonations, and local earthquakes, that often alarm the surrounding country as far as Messina, and have given the whole province the name of Val Demone, as being the abode of infernal spirits. These agitations increase until the vast cauldron become ssurcharged with the fused minerals, when if the convulsion is not sufficiently powerful to force them from the grand crater, (which from its great altitude and the weight of the candent matter requires an uncommon effort,) they explode through that part of the side which offers the least resistance, with a grand and terrific effect, throwing red-hot stones, and flakes of fire, to an incredible height, and spreading ignited cinders and ashes in every direction. These occasional mouths are so numerous, that from one spot I counted upwards of fifty, and the quantity of matter they throw out, quickly forms a mount round the new crater, usually from five hundred to a thousand feet above the surface from which they rise, though some are considerably higher; and many having been extinct for ages, are richly clothed with an exuberant vegetation.

In a short time after the eruption, the lava bursts forth in a state of fusion, and glides at first with an awful velocity, but progressively decreases its rate as it cools and removes from the yawning source to a more level ground. As it increases its density, the sides begin to cake, and the surface becomes loaded with scoriæ, which falling

over repeatedly in scaly waves, with a crackling rumble, retard the progress of the lava, until at length, unless very sulphureous and ferruginous, it does not move a furlong an hour, and in a few days its motion is so slackened as to be scarcely perceptible. It then, from the crusty scum that covers it, bears no terror in its appearance, being a moving mass of gigantic black cinders, burning and desolating, however, every thing in its course. When the component parts have been favourable to re-ignition, a shower of rain has been known to re-produce considerable heat and smoke, after a lapse of many months. From not having been able to keep pace with the real or imaginary daily discoveries in chemistry, I have retained the hypothesis as it struck me, respecting sulphureous and ferruginous lavas continuing longer in motion than other streams, although it may be objected to by those who maintain all lavas to have been perfectly fused, and to have assumed their stony texture and fracture from gradual cooling; but it would also be difficult, in that case, to explain the phenomenon of the presence of such a multitude of zeolites, schorls, chrysolites, and specular iron. The formation of basalts is a subject that has entirely baffled my researches.

Streams of lava, however, are scarcely so much dreaded as the less frequent streams of water, occasioned by the melted snows, the steam of which, like the dreadful Icelandic "huers," (a similar phenomenon,) destroys the flesh of the sufferers, without apparent injury to their clothes. The year 1755 presented an unprecedented calamity of this nature, for during a convulsive agitation of the mountain, attended with dreadful roaring, darkness, smoke, and lightning, at once brilliant flames shot up, and an enormous torrent of boiling water burst from a cavern below the grand crater, dashed over the snows, and pouring down the precipices, overwhelmed and destroyed every thing that interposed in its irresistible descent. This disaster was so sudden, that only imperfect conjectures on it could be formed, and we are still ignorant whether it was salt water or fresh; for

though the doctrine of volcanoes deriving water from the sea has been ridiculed on hydraulic principles, the force of heat and suction, if the possibility of such an agent as the ocean can be admitted, deserve to be considered. A thick bed of sand was left by the water, along the track it had flowed over, which I examined, but without being able to draw any conclusion respecting its origin; vegetation, however, is again slowly advancing on the surface of it.

The practice of estimating the age of lavas by the subsequent progress of vegetation, is founded on a fallacious theory, as that progress must depend on their local situation, their porosity, and their component parts. Nor is more dependance to be placed on alternate strata of lava and earth, as a shower of ashes, assisted by the filtration of rain, soon forms a bed of earth resembling argil; and in many instances, so close is the resemblance between those substances that have undergone the effect of volcanic fire, and those that have not, that even the scientific are frequently misled; and an able geologist might mistake the well known stratum of matter, intermixed with gravelly substances, in Monte Rosso, for marine sediments. The basis of the Ætnean streams being hornstone, schistus, and trap, converted into fluid, lava, and scoriæ, and abounding in iron and sulphur, decomposition takes place here ages before it would, where a volcano has been fed with silex, felspar, or asbestos, as the produce then is obsidian, pumice, and various obdurate vitrifications, refractory to the action of the atmosphere, of humidity, or of sulphuric acid. Some of the volcanic masses in the Æolian islands, that have existed beyond the reach of history, are still without a blade of verdure, while others in various parts of little more than two hundred years' date, bear spontaneous vegetation; and the same is remarked in two lavas on Ætna, near each other, for the one of one thousand five hundred and thirty-six, is still black and arid, while that of one thousand six hundred and thirty-six is covered with oaks, fruit trees, and vines.

I am led to think, from many circumstances, that this volcano was more intense and active in ancient times, than it has been in more recent periods; for the matter was not only more abundant, if we may judge by the magnitude of the ancient beds of lava, and masses of basalt, but pumices and other vitrifications were numerous; whereas, there have been latterly no such substances ejected: many of the present products are scarcely altered by the heat, and the schorls, chrysolites, zeolites, and other crystallizations, appear in many places with angles as acute, and a lustre as fine, as if they had never undergone the action of fire; so that it has even been doubted, whether, in these instances, they have not been formed subsequently to the ejection of the base in which they are contained.

Exclusive of the minerals already mentioned, this truly wonderful mountain affords copper, cinnabar, mercury, alum, nitre, vitriol, specular or carburetted iron, and amianthus. In the woody region, also, are collected tar, honey, and cantharides, which last, though these insects are said to be migratory, and not bred in Sicily, they are taken in great swarms in May and June, from the olive trees, by spreading sheets beneath, and shaking the boughs at daybreak, when the flies, weakened by the cold of the night, drop into the cloth, are tied up until dead, and are then dried in the sun for exportation. The snow of Ætna is not only consumed in vast quantities all over the island, but forms an extensive article of commerce with Malta and Italy, to which places it is sent in such profusion, as to be sold from a penny to threepence the pound, a rate, which renders it accessible to the lowest classes. Abundance of a fine earth is also found, soft, light, and white, resembling the kaolin of China. It was doubtlessly used by the ancients, as the remains of three very peculiar potteries have been discovered near the spot where it is procured.

Pozzolana, the valuable cement for submarine works, may be had in any quantity; the red species of it is the best, from its containing most calcined iron. There are numerous mineral waters, hot, ferru-

ginous, and sulphureous, in many parts of the mountain, but those in the neighbourhood of Paternò are most esteemed. Cattle and domestic animals are reared in great perfection, and in the woods are found wild-goats, boars, porcupines, wolves, edible snakes, and game* of every variety, while the higher cliffs are frequented by vultures, kites, and majestic eagles.

Plain of Catania.—To the southward of the base of Ætna, is the plain of Catania, an extent nearly of twenty miles long, and twelve wide, of a rich loamy soil, mixed with volcanic ashes, and covered with a spontaneous herbage, among which are still found the wild flax and wheat, as in the time of Diodorus. But although the first knowledge of agriculture was acquired here, this noble plain is suffering from neglect; a fault totally inexcusable, as a few plantations and some drains near the Foggie, or marshes, would probably soon restore it to its ancient and celebrated fecundity. It is irrigated by several small streams, of which the principal is the Simæthus, now called the Giarretta, from the name of the boat used as a ferry in crossing it. Fine specimens of yellow, red, and black amber are collected floating at its mouth, though the precise source whence it comes is yet undiscovered; it is generally supposed to be a vegetable substance, flowing from a bituminous stratum, hardened by time, and the impregnation of various saline and terrene particles. Morgantia stood on the banks of this river, at which time it must have been much broader and deeper, as the ships of Marcellus anchored in its entrance.

At the south end of the plain, after passing the rivulet of Gurrialonga, stands the little village and "caricatore" of Agnuni, formerly the emporium of Leontium, and from whence corn, oil, and rice are still exported. The foundation, and part of the walls of a large

* The rugged and sharp edges of the lava miserably lamed a fine English pointer I had with me. Sportsmen's dogs should be provided with shoes, which may be found ready made, at the towns in the neighbourhood.

Gothic church, commenced by Frederic II., are still visible; there is also a tower of defence, and a fondaco for the accommodation of travellers; the air, however, is unwholesome throughout the greater part of the year.

Lentini.—On the side of one of the hills, at the back of Agnuni, stands Lentini, the ancient Leontium, a celebrated and once a populous city, coeval with the foundation of Catana, remarkable for its struggles with Syracuse, and for the intrigues of the enterprising tyrant Icetas, and the subtle sophist Gorgias. The proverbial fertility of its fields, and the strength of its position, made it a desirable object of confiscation to Rome. It was so totally ruined by the great earthquake of 1693, and still remains such a melancholy scene of misery, as to present few vestiges of ancient grandeur; the four summits of the cleft hill on which it stood, have yielded a few vases, inscriptions, and coins, but the grottos, and remains of walls, afford no specific information. It is supposed that corn was first used here for food, and from hence introduced into Greece and Italy, and with it the worship of Ceres and Proserpine.

The modern town is on the side of a hill, consisting of a marine deposit full of shells, and in one part singular from the quantity of human skulls and bones scattered about: these belonged to the graves of a convent that stood on the summit, and was shook down by the fore-mentioned earthquake. There are a few large, but decaying, edifices, and a population of about five thousand people, who subsist by the sale of oil, rice, flax, hemp, soda, liquorice, saltpetre, bottarga, and cattle, for the latter of which a fair is held in April, in which the articles sold are allowed the important exemption from what is called the consumption duty. The neighbourhood is enriched by streams, which render it extremely luxuriant; but the air is unwholesome, owing to the adjacent lake, and the rice-grounds, that extend nearly to Palagonìa.

On the hill above Lentini, stands Carlentini, a town intended, by its founder, Charles the Fifth, for the head-quarters of his Sicilian army; the design, however, never was completed, and since the earthquake in 1693, by which it was partially destroyed, it has become a miserable place, containing about two thousand inhabitants; and, from its peculiar plan, and low houses, is not unlike a camp. The air is much more salubrious than in Lentini, for which reason it is a more desirable place for travellers to rest, though the natives are not remarkable for their hospitality.

Near Lentini is situated a lake, called the Biviere, a sheet of water, in its greatest winter extent, about nineteen miles in circumference; but which decreases as the sun advances to eight or nine, leaving a feculent bed of mud and marsh on its banks, that, during the summer exhalations, teems with pestilence and death. It appears that this inconvenience might be prevented at little expense (although it was one of the labours of Hercules), as there is a communication by the rivulet of San Leonardo with the sea, which might easily be deepened. There are between fifty and sixty boats daily employed on the lake, under license from the Prince of Butera, the proprietor, who derives a considerable revenue from the quantity of excellent fish caught therein. The principal of these are the grey mullet, tench, barbel, eels, and various crustacea, many of which are taken in great numbers in the Giarretta, and brought thither to fatten. Bottarga, a preparation of the roe of the mugil cephalus, or grey mullet, is made in considerable quantities; and the game of every sort that frequents the banks of this lake and its neighbourhood, are also a source of profit. The Biviere was considerably enlarged, during the reign of King Martin, by a stratagem of the then Prince of Butera, who obtained leave to turn a stream into it, under pretence that the admission of more water would certainly force a passage to the sea, and thus act as a drain; but which, escaping into marshes on every side, from no efforts being

made to conduct it in the proper direction, only increased the general evil, and added to the perquisites of the crafty prince.

La Bruca.—The port of La Bruca is in the mass of calcareous petrefaction that forms the south side of the Gulf of Catania. A small village, of about a hundred and sixty poor inhabitants, stands on a tongue of rock, jutting out into the middle of the port, having a stout square castle, with round towers at its extremity. This little harbour appears like a work of art, rather than of nature, as the rocks rise vertically forty or fifty feet, and contain several grottos. Small craft resort thither to load wheat, tunny, and squared stones for building. Fine oysters are fished up here; and, at the upper end of the creek, a rivulet runs up the country to some distance, in which are found mineral bezoars. Near the castle there is a mineral spring, turbid and whitish, smelling strongly of sulphur; and farther on is a ferruginous well. The vicinity is barren and rugged, strewed with various portions of baths, tombs, and other vestiges of antiquity. From a careful inspection of the whole site, I conclude La Bruca to be the Port Pantasius, where the colonists landed under Lamis, and then "proceeded a little to the southward," to found Megara; this place was also more consonant with their ideas of a harbour, than Augusta, which would rather have been deemed a gulf by the ancients.

Harbour of Augusta.—Cape Santa Croce is the northern point of the Bay of Augusta, and is of some consequence in Sicilian annals, as being the supposed place where the tombs and bones of the giants were found; and also as being the spot where the Empress Helena landed with the Holy Cross from Jerusalem. A small convent is erected on the sacred ground on which it was laid; and the friars persuade the neighbouring peasantry that the shadow of it is sometimes to be observed on the surface of the sea. But the old superior

could not defend this legend of the cross against the accounts which assert that St. Helena left the greater part of it in custody of the Bishop of Jerusalem; nor from the difficulty of there having been another captured by Cosroes, recovered by Heraclius, and again taken by Saladin, at the battle of Tiberias, and restored to the fanatics of the fifth crusade.

Augusta.—The city of Augusta was built by the Emperor Frederic, in the thirteenth century, and peopled from Centuripa, which was razed for sedition. It was nearly destroyed by the earthquake of 1693, when numbers of people were crushed to death under the ruins of their houses, and a sulphureous vapour finding its way to the principal powder magazine, it blew up with a tremendous explosion. The town is large, and the streets regular and parallel, with some tolerable municipal edifices and magazines for articles of commerce; but the houses are low and mean, and the inhabitants, amounting to nearly eight thousand, have an air of dejection and poverty. Their whole existence depends on the export of salt, and a little oil, honey, and wine. They are not esteemed so social as their neighbours of Syracuse, Lentini, or Catania; and have, in some instances, betrayed a degree of ferocity rather unusual in the present century, particularly in the recent mangling of some Greeks, who were watering at the Cantara aqueduct, and in murdering upwards of three hundred and fifty invalid French officers and soldiers in their camp, under the walls of Augusta, on their return from Egypt, in 1800.

Augusta is a strong and well-fortified place of arms; the works are of sound masonry and in good repair, and the approaches would be difficult to a besieger. The principal fortress is situated on the isthmus that unites the town to the main, both of which it commands; it is composed of an old square castle, with good cisterns, and bomb-proof barracks and stores; two exterior line-walls, strengthened by

bastions, and some outworks of more modern date; with an excellent equalization of flank defence of the isthmus and ravelin on either side. The town is surrounded towards the sea by a glacis, or rather a covert-way, in front of which is an artificial cordon of rocks in the water, to prevent the approach of boats.

The Torre d'Avola, is a well-built insulated fort, on which the miserable light-house stands. This work is circular towards the entrance of the port, with two tiers of heavy guns, and towards the town it is finished by a small front of fortification. Besides these, there are two other insulated forts, of excellent construction, at the north-west end of the harbour, well defiladed to the adjacent hill, and provided with bomb-proof barracks and stores. They were built by the Spanish viceroy, Don Garcia de Toledo, who named the large one Garcia, and the smaller Vittoria, in honour of his lady. A single work would, perhaps, have been preferable; for, in the war of the succession, the garrisons of both being weakened, they united in Garcia, which being perceived, the watchful enemy gained the evacuated fort in the night; and, the whole of the ensuing day, a curious fight was maintained, the two forts being within pistol-shot of each other, until, at length, towards the evening, Vittoria was again abandoned.

The west side of the harbour is watered by some tolerable streams, in which fine eels, mullet, and barbel, are caught; but the country, though plain, is rugged and neglected towards the "Fondaco," near the Torre del Fico, behind the peninsula of Magnisi. Yet on this very spot the cultivation of the sugar-cane was carried on to a great extent previous to the introduction of Brazilian produce; and its wild vines and spontaneous flowers indicate that it is still, by nature, as fertile as the well cultivated lands near it.

The whole site is pregnant with proofs of its former populous state, in the ruins of Hybla Galeota, Hybla Megara, and the Limbetra of Dædalus, on the banks of the river Alabus. This plain is bounded by a range of hills, in which sufficient evidence of their having un-

dergone ignition is every where observable. Here the inhabitants of Melilli collect excellent honey, in trees, hives, and caves, from July to October, with which they carry on a profitable traffic.

Magnisi.—The south side of the harbour of Augusta is formed by the promontory of Magnisi, which, though joined to the main by an isthmus, is generally called an island. It is of a moderate height, and was the ancient peninsula of Thapsus, where the ill-fated Athenians landed previously to attacking the Epipolæ. It appears well calculated for a grand lazaretto (should their commerce ever require it) for the ports of Syracuse and Augusta, being equidistant from both, and though mal' aria exists in the adjacent plain, the island itself is not affected by it. On its highest point, and opposite the isthmus, is erected a stout martello tower, which completely commands the island, its approaches, and its two small bays, furnished with a stone glacis, to prevent its being battered on the land side; this, however, is injudiciously attached to the tower, for a space between them, and an entrance by a draw-bridge, would have rendered the whole more secure.

At the end of the isthmus are the large and profitable salt-works of Sajona; and not far from thence is a column called the Aguglia, erected by Marcellus, in commemoration of his success over the Syracusans. It consists of a square pedestal, surmounted by a round column, the upper part of which has been thrown down; the remains are about thirty feet high, of a solid construction, and of very large square stones, without cement between them, though the whole appears to have been stuccoed over.

Harbour of Syracuse.—The beach of Panagia Bay is sandy and covered with pila marina balls, as far as the grove of olive trees at Stentino, the ancient Trogilus; close to which is a rocky creek, with a large "Tonnara."

Inside the rocks of the Capuchins is a small shallow bay, formerly

The remains of the Monument of Marcellus.

St. John's Chapel over the Catacombs of Syracuse.

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called Port Marmoreus, from the quantity of statues and marbles lavished on it by Dionysius and Agathocles, though not the slightest vestige remains of its ancient grandeur.

When at anchor in the noble harbour of Syracuse, the beauty of the surrounding country is peculiarly striking, as the town still possesses all the local advantages for which it was renowned in the days of its glory; and its climate is yet such as to justify the ancient adage, that there never was a day here in which the sun was not visible at some one hour. It is admirably adapted both for a naval station, and for a commercial emporium with the Adriatic, the Morea, the Levant, and Egypt; but a few polacche and paranzelli are the only vessels that repair thither, and the commerce consists in the export of a little salt, wine, oil, and fish; notwithstanding that the excellent bottom of this harbour, its easy access, good supply of water, and security, make it rival with any haven in Europe. Here Lord Nelson's fleet was supplied with bullocks, vegetables, and other refreshments, and was ready again for sea in five days, on his memorable pursuit of the French fleet in 1798.

Syracuse.—The famed and powerful state of Syracuse owes its foundation to a colony from Corinth, which was indeed, notwithstanding the singularly happy situation of the latter, a mountain produced from a mole-hill. The strangers were led by Archias, who is said to have purchased his right to the possession, by the trifling gift of a honey-cake. Various other parts of the island were settled about the same time. The Greek colonists, inheriting the enterprise, spirit, address, and ability, of their ancestors, made a rapid progress; and, although often divided by tyrants and democrats, their numerous settlements, rising into consideration, attested the success of their expeditions, whilst the Hellenic became the vernacular language of a free and industrious people.

Their historic details afford but little satisfactory information, until

about the time of the usurpation of Gelon, under whose equitable and politic sway, Syracuse acquired much of the strength that subsequently rendered her so formidable. The first trials of military prowess proving eminently successful, the elated citizens thought themselves in a condition to give laws to the whole island; and their interference with the neighbouring states occasioned those intestine broils, so ably described in history, and which, inducing Athens to adopt the ruinous measure of employing a large armament on foreign invasion, while her own gates were insulted, led to the humiliation and downfall of that brilliant seat of the sciences.

The desire of engrossing the advantages offered by the possession of so favoured a spot, rendered it the object of violent struggles between the Athenians, Carthaginians, Epirots, and Romans: during which, every part of Sicily became a theatre of intrigues, sieges, and desolating battles; alternately presenting the splendid virtues of Dion, Timoleon, and Hiero; the eccentric talents of Dionysius, Agathocles, and Pyrrhus; and the melancholy disasters of Himilco, Nicias, and Hamilcar.

These great and continued conflicts had not, however, prevented the arts and sciences from attaining an eminence that has seldom been surpassed, as is testified by numerous vestiges of the magnificent edifices of the Syracusans, by their singularly beautiful medals, and by their immortal writings; and while philosophy and literature retain a votary, the illustrious names of Archimedes, Epicharmus, and Theocritus will ever throw a beam of glory on the city of their birth. The place once inhabited by Plato, Simonides, Zeno, and Cicero,—where Hicetas first announced the present system of the world,—and where Corax began writing on dialectics and rhetoric, must ever endear the interesting and affecting details of Thucydides, Plutarch, and Diodorus. Indeed, the splendour, wealth, power, and population, of Syracuse, have, for so many ages, been the theme of history and of poetry, that almost every one feels himself a citizen. When we

recollect that, at one and the same time, it was the scene of strenuous warfare between four armies, excited by the jarring interests of Timoleon, Icetas, Hanno, and Dionysius; and when, in addition, we see before us the vestiges of a mighty city, upwards of fifteen miles in extent,—the accounts we have received do not appear exaggerated.

Syracuse was divided into five districts; of which the largest and handsomest was Acradina, containing the vast population of four hundred thousand people, and divided from Tyche and Neapolis by a wall of extraordinary thickness and height. As this was the lowest quarter, excavators have been tolerably successful in recovering specimens of the taste of the inhabitants, considering the few remains that can be expected, after the numerous sieges sustained by this city, particularly that in the ninth century by the Saracens, when, after being invested for many years, it stood an assault of twenty-seven days, and when reduced by famine and disease, and obliged to surrender, it was devoted to a month's pillage. The principal remains in Acradina are those of the Pulcherrimæ Portico, some baths, walls, and gates; and the curious edifice called the Palace of Sixty Beds, erected by Agathocles, some walls and arches of which are constructed of a sort of hollow tube of baked clay, in shape like a French wine bottle, but without a bottom; one of these is filled with mortar, and its neck inserted into the wide end of another, until a curved row is formed, and the whole covered with cement, on which flat bricks are laid. But though the vestiges of this once magnificent quarter are few, the site is so clearly marked, that the scenes of the valour of Dion, the death of Diocles, the craft of Ducetius, the ravages of Nypsius, and all the various interesting occurrences, so generally known to the learned, are very easily traced.

Tyche was the next quarter in opulence and rank; but, as it was built on the rock, which rendered the laying of deep foundations unnecessary, there are still fewer remains here than in Acradina; and those parts, once so fair and smiling, are now silent, barren, and desolate, cheered only by the occasional appearance of

the waters of the aqueduct. A road leads to Neapolis, through a street of sepulchres, cut in the rock, where the Ciceroni, or guides, pretend the tomb of Archimedes was discovered by Cicero; but if the one assigned to him, from being inscribed with the sphere and cylinder, was covered with brambles, it must have stood in the plain below.

Neapolis was a very favourite division of the city; and, in a romantic situation, commanding a view of the harbour, the sea, the rest of the city, and the adjacent country, stands an ancient theatre, hewn out of the solid rock, capable of conveniently containing upwards of thirteen thousand spectators, with peculiar and well-contrived galleries, for enabling the audience to get to their respective places. All along the front of one of the seats there are inscriptions on every compartment, in large Greek characters, that have, in some measure, resisted the ravages of time; the plainest of them is Basilissas Philistidos, the next Basilissas Nereide; the remainder are illegible, excepting the centre one, part of which seems to import Olympian Jove; the rest of the inscription is hidden by a modern building belonging to the water-mill, which the Cavalier Landolina requested permission from the king to remove to the other side of the theatre, at his own expense, but was refused. The ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΩΣ has greatly perplexed the Sicilian antiquaries; for, from the silence of history, it remains unknown whether she was a queen, or whether she derived the title of Basilissas from being the chief priestess of Bacchus, as they pretend the veiled head on the medals indicates: I think, however, from the great number of coins bearing her head in every stage, from a youthful beauty to a matron well stricken in years, we are borne out in supposing her to have been a queen, and that she reigned a long time. This theatre was hypæthral; but though there was no roof, there are evident indications that awnings were used. A portion of the waters of the aqueduct above, after turning the mills of Galermi, falls in a cascade through the centre of the theatre, and adds to the picturesque appearance.

At a short distance to the southward is a Roman amphitheatre,

The Capuchin Selva in the Latomia.

View of the Ear of Dionysius.

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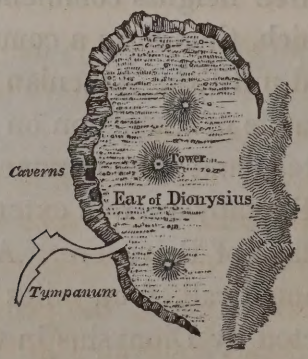
with vaulted corridors and vomitories, but very inferior in design to the theatre just mentioned; it is partly hewn out of the calcareous rock of which this neighbourhood consists, and partly constructed of large stones. The form is oval, with two wide entrances, which, with a part of the corridor, have been cleared out; but the whole seems to have been shaken by an earthquake, as a large oblique vein of earth intersects the stone quite across; it is otherwise in tolerable preservation, though a more rapid dilapidation threatens it now that flax is cultivated in the arena or centre. This part is said to have been so called, because it was strewed with sand to conceal the blood spilled during what were termed the amusements; but, from the diabolical sanguinary taste of the Romans, I imagine it was used only to prevent the feet of the fated victims from slipping in the gore. This amphitheatre always brought to my mind Pætus Thrasea, one of the very few men, in the days of the Empire, in whose character an honest man and a patriot may delight; he incurred the bitter enmity of Nero and his adherents, by strenuously resisting a decree of the Senate, authorizing the people of Syracuse, in their public spectacles, to exceed the number of gladiators limited by law.

The Epipolæ were three heights commencing where Tyche and Neapolis terminated, which, though in a commanding situation, were overlooked and neglected until the Athenian war, when Nicias seized them, and erected the castle of Labdalon on them; afterwards their value was duly appreciated, and they became, with the works of Euryalus, Hexapylon, and Pentapylon, one extensive fortress; its site is now occupied by the village of Belvedere. At one of the bastions of Euryalus ended the famous wall, four miles in length, and of great height and solidity, erected by Dionysius in twenty days, employing sixty thousand men and six thousand yoke of oxen; the vestiges are upwards of eight feet thick, and consist of large squared blocks of stone, without cement.

The Latomiæ were originally quarries, whence the stone for the construction of the city was drawn; but they became at length so

extensive, that, on the surrender of Nicias, the Athenians were confined in them, and endured hunger, filth, and every misery that deliberate cruelty could inflict. The largest of these latomiæ is named the Palombino, and is the property of a capuchin convent, which has a romantic garden, called the Selva, formed in the bottom of it, of luxurious fertility, and secured from every wind by the height of the surrounding cliffs. This convent exhibits more the appearance of a garrison of soldiers, than the residence of a company of friars, it being moated, and entered by a draw-bridge, as a precaution against the predatory attacks of Barbary corsairs.

There are few spots more productive of olives, oranges, lemons, citrons, pomegranates, almonds, and figs, than the Paradiso or second of the Latomiæ, remarkable in story as the ear of Dionysius. The sides, though still of great height, descend considerably below the present level of the earth; and, amidst a variety of grotesque columnar rocks (one of which, an insulated mass, bears the ruins of a Saracen tower) some grottoes are seen, where a profitable manufactory of nitre is carried on; and one of them is the remarkable excavation, called the typanum of the ear, in this shape:—



This cavern, which, from history and tradition, and from its size and the echo it produces, awakens a lively interest, is in the fine geometrical shape of a parabolic curve, ending in an elliptical arch, with sides parallel to its axis, perfectly smooth, and covered with a slight

stalactitic incrustation that renders its repercussions amazingly sonorous. Although a considerable portion has been filled up, which I ascertained by excavation, it is still sixty-four feet high, from seventeen to thirty-five in breadth, and one hundred and eighty-seven deep. It has an awful and gloomy appearance, which, with its singular shape, perhaps, gave rise to the popular and amusing paradox, that Dionysius had it constructed for the confinement of those whom he deemed inimical to his authority; and that, from the little apartment above, he could overhear all the conversation that passed among the captives, and deal his mercy or vengeance accordingly. This story, however, cannot be founded in truth, as history does not record the confinement of any person of rank, except Philoxenus, the dithyrambic poet; and even his imprisonment, from his speedy release, may be deemed to have been only a humiliation. It was most probably one of the prisons where the Cyllirii and dregs of the populace were confined, though it must certainly be admitted that the design and art apparent in its formation would indicate a more special object. The tyrant, however, could not have listened with satisfaction or advantage; for if two or more people are speaking together, it occasions only a confused clamour; and unless this room, the access to which must always have been difficult, was more convenient than I found it, it must have been a wretched apartment for the mighty ruler of Syracuse.

The Catacombs are vast excavations of remote antiquity, forming extensive subterranean streets of tombs cut out of the solid rock. The entrance is under the small Gothic church of St. John, and to these tranquil and silent regions, the primitive Christians (who had been much encouraged and confirmed in the faith by St. Paul's visit) retreated during the persecutions; and thus the incongruous mixture of Pagan and Christian monograms, of palm branches, crosses, doves, and other symbols, observable, may be accounted for. The church of St. Marcian (the earliest in Europe for Christian worship) still

possesses the tomb of that saint, and the Ionic capital that was used as the first episcopal seat. This sepulchral labyrinth, in which are contained such numerous tombs for adults, children, and favourite animals, strongly controverts the theory, still very prevalent among Italian rustics, as well as among Turks, Arabs, and Moors, that the human species has progressively decreased in size and stature, and will ultimately extinguish itself in a race of dwarfs; and it is somewhat remarkable, that the proof of man's having been for so many ages of the same stature, is in the neighbourhood of the very spot where the skeletons of the giants are said, by Fazzello, to have been discovered.

The aqueducts are stupendous and admirable undertakings, which, like the catacombs and latomiæ, are correspondent with the grandeur and opulence of ancient Syracuse. They were cut in the rock by Gelon, for the purpose of supplying the city, and irrigating the country; but were considerably enlarged by Hiero the Second, who made subterranean channels, by which the streams were artfully conveyed to every part, and yet effectually concealed from the knowledge of an enemy.

Modern Syracuse stands on the ancient isthmus of Ortygia, so named from the similitude of its form to that of a quail. It was the second Greek colony in Sicily, and afterwards became the fortress and arsenal of Dionysius, and numerous vestiges still attest its former grandeur. After the conquest of Syracuse by Marcellus, no Syracusan was permitted to inhabit Ortygia, or, indeed, any spot accessible to shipping.

The temple of Minerva was one of the earliest edifices of this kind on the island, and was, until the time of Verres, adorned with gates of gold, ivory, and bronze; it was enriched with beautiful sculpture and paintings, particularly the exploits of Agathocles, in twenty-seven pictures, and portraits of all the rulers of Sicily. The columns are Doric, with cyathiform capitals: the intercolumniations have been

walled up, an overloaded façade has been added, and it is now become the cathedral, having thus been a place of public worship upwards of two thousand five hundred years. On the fastigium, or summit, of this edifice, was placed the polished shield, on losing sight of which sailors threw their offerings of honey, flowers, and ashes, into the sea; and it is supposed, that the famous meridian of Archimedes also stood on the same part of the building.

There were numerous baths in Ortygia, though not more than were necessary for the health and convenience of a people, who, not using linen, required frequent ablutions. The most curious is one with a spiral staircase, about forty feet deep, in the church of St. Philip; and there are vestiges of those of Daphne, in the apodyterium of which, the hateful Constans, the second emperor of the east, was killed in 668.

The famous fountain of Arethusa, which formerly received divine honours, was once in the centre of Ortygia, but repeated earthquakes have compelled it to alter its situation, and by dividing and damaging its channels, have sullied the sweetness of its waters; yet, notwithstanding the loss it sustains, by a number of streamlets that run off in several directions, it is not inconsiderable; and is still resorted to by a number of nymphs, who, washing their dirty linen, probably form as great a contrast to its ancient attendants, as its diminished stream must to its once noble torrent. At the distance of about eighty feet from this fountain, a copious spring, called L'Occhio della Zilica, and probably derived from the same source, rises from the bottom of the harbour, (distinguishable only on very calm days,) with such force, that it does not intermingle with the salt water until it gains the surface. This, the poets assert, is Alpheus, who, after vainly rolling through Elis, in Greece, rises here to rejoin his metamorphosed nymph; and Moschus, in his eighth idyllium, says, that leaves, flowers, dust, and olives, have been thrown up by it. A similar story to this was told to me by the

monks of Strophadia, respecting a well in their convent, which is situated exactly opposite this Grecian river; here, they say, leaves of the plane-tree have often been brought up by the bucket, and as that tree does not exist on their little rock, they must have come over by a subterranean channel from the Alpheus:—one doubt still remained, for notwithstanding their all asserting that the phenomenon was not unusual, no one of the relaters could positively assure me, that he had personally witnessed the fact.

The present city of Syracuse is a fortress of considerable strength; but having been built at different periods, the whole, as a work of defence, is somewhat confused: the interior line is a front of fortification in the old style, with a defective faussebraye, and a tolerably crowned horn-work. The lines are enfiladed on the land side, except the ravelin of Monte d'Oro, which flanks the right branch of the exterior horn-work, and is built oblique to its object, to prevent the body of the fortress being breached from Acradina: for so extensive a place of arms, it is rather deficient in bomb proofs, quarters, store-rooms, and cisterns. The entrance of the harbour is commanded by the castle of Maniaces, a work of considerable strength, and in tolerable repair, though it was seriously damaged some years ago by an explosion of gunpowder, when the gate, that led to the apartments where the celebrated De Ruyter died of his wounds, after the conflict off Augusta, was the only part of the palace of George Maniaces that escaped the disaster.

The streets of Syracuse are confined and narrow, and the public buildings, though numerous, have little to recommend them; but still, on the whole, with its thirteen thousand inhabitants, it would be a respectable city, were it not viewed as the wreck of one so celebrated in remote ages.

The museum is in its commencement, and though badly arranged, boasts the Landolina Venus and Esculapius; some sarcophagi, vases,

lamps, inscriptions*, and coins; and some curious specimens of wood converted into a kind of agate and opal; with various petrified organic and marine productions. In the rooms above the museum, is the public library of Alagona: the entrance is through an antichamber furnished with a handsome table, composed of specimens of all the different agates and marbles in Sicily. Among the books are several illuminated manuscripts, chiefly theological, and a fine copy of the Alcoran, found in the baggage of a French officer after the massacre at Augusta, in 1800. The directors of the library have lately begun to make a collection of the works of all Syracusan authors.

There are some private cabinets, that may be visited on a proper introduction, of which those of Landolina, (brother of the late antiquary,) and Capodieci, are the principal. In the churches and convents several good pictures are to be seen; and among the rest, a head of our Saviour, attributed to St. Luke, who has, some how or other, been reputed an artist, although it is well known that the early Christians (as well as the present inhabitants of Palestine and Egypt) considered painting as an odious and profane art.

The religious institutions, and consequently the festivals, are numerous; and the joyous noise, even to frenzy, with which they are celebrated, prove that the modern Syracusans are fully as fond as the ancient of such spectacles. The natives are kind and hospitable to strangers. Among the females, particularly of the lower orders, the Grecian contour of countenance may easily be remarked, and the distaff, which, according to Theocritus, was invented here, is still in their hands.

The adjacent country being copiously irrigated, and possessing a fine marly soil, and delightful climate, is exuberantly fertile, pro-

* Of the most perfect of the ancient inscriptions is the following:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΣ ΑΓΕ
ΙΕΡΩΝΟΣ ΙΕΡΟΚΛΕΟΣ
ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΟΙΘΕΟΙΣΠΑΣΙ

ducing wheat, oil, hemp, tobacco, fruit, pulse, and several kinds of delicious wines. On the west side of the harbour, the river Anapus flows through the alluvial plain, from whose marshes Syracuse derived its name, and the miasms of which so often occasioned the destruction of its besiegers.

One instance of this occurred shortly after the dissolution of the Athenian army, when the Carthaginians, under the helpless Himilco, left a hundred and fifty thousand unburied bodies on this fatal plain.

The Anapus is itself much contaminated, and its current impeded, by the pernicious custom of steeping hemp in it during the summer. It struck me, on examination, that by a proper attention to this river, the cultivation of its banks, and the formation of the requisite drains through this neglected spot, its stagnant waters might easily be withdrawn, and from a seat of overgrown weeds, of reptiles, and of mal' aria, it might become one of the most productive plains in Sicily. The Greeks, with an admirable policy, exempted drained lands from taxation for ever, but the present state of Sicily shews the art of draining to be little encouraged.

At a little distance from the left bank of the river, is the celebrated fountain, or spring; of Cyane, the traditional spot where Pluto disappeared with Proserpine, and thus metamorphosed the nymph who would have prevented his design; though other accounts state, that Cyane was a Syracusan nymph, who slew her father, (prompted by Bacchus for contempt of his orgies,) on his offering her violence during a fit of intoxication: these relations differ widely, but it was certainly in commemoration of the first occasion, that the Theogamia were instituted. The spring is now called the Pisma, and is a circular basin of the purest water, though, from its muddy bottom, it has a black appearance; it is about sixty or seventy feet in diameter, and twenty-six deep, well stocked with fine fish, and the banks are covered with a luxurious profusion of aquatic plants. From thence to the river, it flows in a narrow, limpid, and quiet, but deep stream; on the sides

of which the Cyperus Papyrus is found, floating as it grows, in such abundance, that it is used as withes for binding corn, and other articles: the principal root runs horizontally near the surface of the water, throwing out long filaments, which descend perpendicularly down, while numerous triangular green stems shoot up to the height of eight or ten feet, crowned on the summit by a fibrous tuft of fine filaments, which, near their extremities, are again sub-divided into others bearing small seedy flowerets.

It is supposed the Papyrus was sent from Egypt by Ptolemy Philadelphus, among other presents, to Hiero, with whom he was on most amicable terms; indeed, his estimation in Sicily may be perceived in the panegyrical Idyllia of Theocritus, particularly in the seventeenth, and at the close of the fourteenth. Paper, some assert, was made of the yellow pellicle that surrounds the stem, near the root; but I have been more successful, by following the directions of Pliny, with the cellular substance of the whole stem cut thin, the slices laid over each other transversely at right angles, and well pressed. Besides making paper of this plant, the ancients are said to have extracted sugar from it, and to have made cordage and canvass of its fibres.

Across the plain, and under the walls of the Epipolæ, at the place called Tre Miglia, is the site of the house and farm that was presented by the grateful Syracusans to Timoleon for his eminent services; and hither, after his blindness, not only the citizens repaired, but all strangers that arrived were conducted, to have the pleasure of beholding the virtuous and successful defender of freedom: thus cherished by the state, beloved by the people, and admired by the whole world, he lived to a good old age, and, at his death, was honoured, amidst the tears of all Syracuse, with a magnificent funeral at the public expense. But, it must be confessed, that the unqualified panegyric on his intrepidity and ability, cannot conceal some monstrous instances of a want of the generosity and clemency usually

combined with an expanded mind; and the murder of his brother, of Mamercus, Euphymus, Hippon, and Pothumius; of Icetas, and his whole family, and of the wives and daughters of Dionysius, which were, undoubtedly perpetrated with his connivance, are dreadful drawbacks to the charm his name would otherwise possess.

The southern shore of the harbour, absurdly called the island, was the promontory of Plemmyrium, so remarkable in the Athenian siege; under it are the small rocks on which the soldiers of Nicias displayed their trophies. For particulars, relative to these and many other interesting sites, it will be necessary to consult the plan and the views.

Lognini.—A large rock, joined to the main by a reef on the north shore, forms the little port of Lognini; there is a bold point with a round tower to the south, which has been rent by lightning; and as there is no other defence, the Barbary corsairs have frequently taken vessels away, and even chased the crews two or three miles inland; and this so late as in 1816. There are about a hundred and twenty people scattered through its district, but no regular village.

From hence towards Fontano Bianca, and the Cassilibi and Miranda streamlets, the coast is low with frequent sandy coves, and a few insignificant rocks; but the whole sufficiently abounds in ruins, sepulchres, and baths, to prove its former consideration. On the woody banks of the Miranda, (the ancient Erineus,) was fought the battle in which Demosthenes and his troops were defeated by the Syracusans; an event that fatally accelerated the catastrophe of the main army under Nicias, which was then crossing the Cacyparis above them.

Avola.—The town of Avola is prettily and salubriously situated on a woody eminence, to the southward of the Miranda, with a Marina (or dependent village) on the beach, a Tonnara, and a battery for

defence. It contains about seven thousand inhabitants, and, from several respectable edifices, tolerable streets, and a good market-place, has an air of cleanliness and regularity. Besides the profits of the Tonnara, this town has a considerable traffic in wine, corn, cheese, carubbas, almonds, oil, honey, and fruit, and some in sugar, made from the only cane plantation now left on the island. The adjacent country abounds profusely with game, and supplies pasturage to a great number of fine cattle, many of which are exported to Malta.

To the south-south-east of the Marina, about two or three miles distant, is the place where the nets for catching the tunnies are moored, and where they generally have a vessel at anchor with a hut built on her as a beacon.

Noto.—About seven miles from Avola, by a very pleasant road, passable for carriages, stands Noto, a city of thirteen thousand inhabitants, and the capital of the province of that name. It is superbly situated, and from its elegant streets, and noble churches and convents, forms one of the most respectable places in Sicily; while its adjacent grounds, though a considerable quantity of the land is left waste, possesses such abundant fecundity as to add greatly to its opulence. Baron Fargioni, who acted some time as British consul at Noto, has an excellent collection of Greek and Roman coins and medals; with the Saracenic and modern Sicilian money; and a tolerable cabinet of mineralogy, which are obligingly shewn on an introduction.

The ancient city was called Neetum, and was the birth-place of the crafty Ducetius, although he is also claimed as a citizen by the town of Menæ: it stood on an impregnable hill, four or five miles distant, where, amongst the wrecks of 1693, there are still remains of an amphitheatre and a gymnasium; but, in consequence of the earthquake of that year, the natives removed to the present spot, which, though more conveniently situated, is very unhealthy. The air was

originally bad, but it is rendered still more deleterious by the practice of steeping hemp, and though this injurious custom has been lately prohibited, the natives yet retain a pale, sallow aspect, and swelled bodies, which constitute the principal evidence of the existence of mal' aria.

Between the site of Neetum and Palazzolo are found the remains of the city of Acræ, and near them are some curious bas-reliefs on the rocks, supposed to be in honour of Cybele.

The river Abysso, so well known in history, under the name of Helorus, winds through the plain below, and from its beneficial influence on the surrounding lands, (which it irrigates in summer, and overflows in winter,) has been compared to the Nile of Egypt. The walnut, olive, almond, fig-trees, and vines, that luxuriantly abound, intermixed with myrtles, jessamines, oleanders, roses, aloes, and numerous aromatic shrubs, impregnating the soft and tranquil atmosphere with a delicious fragrance, and arraying nature in her gayest colours, seem to point out this as one of the spots where the comforts of a domestic circle would compensate for the evanescent enjoyments arising from the trappings, pageantry, and etiquette of ambitious grandeur. But, alas! wherever these beautiful vales occur, in southern climes, reptiles, misery, and disease, are in attendance; and thus in this delightful plain, (the scenery of which was sung by Virgil, and called Eloria Tempe by Ovid,) scarcely any habitations appear among its rich foliage, or on the banks of its meandering streams; and the few cadaverous natives that dwell there, are found idling and sleeping away the heat of the day, enfeebled by sickness, and devoured by vermin. How different a sensation is inspired by the sight of a well cultivated valley in England, sprinkled with cottages, and teeming with an industrious population, where the much-calumniated climate is not only salubrious, but invites, and permits, both labour and exercise; and above all, where the proud axiom exists, that a slave cannot breathe in so fine an air.

The Asinaro disembogues itself near the Ballata di Noto, a small anchorage, near a point of land, with a few magazines on it, where the produce of the neighbouring country is embarked. It was between the Helorus and the Asinarus that, after several severe skirmishes, the battle was fought which completed the destruction of the Athenian invaders. It is commemorated by a circular column (now called Pizzuta), formed of huge stones, without cement, on a square pedestal of four steps, upon the very spot where the unhappy Nicias resigned his arms to Gylippus, and surrendered his wretched companions to a deliberately cruel slavery. It is surprising that the festival, instituted on this occasion, has been preserved through all changes of fortune, government, and religion, and is still celebrated (though now in honour of a saint) at Syracuse, in May, when two olive trees are borne in triumph into the city, and, during the fortnight they are allowed to remain there, debtors can roam about, free from molestation.

The neighbourhood teems with fragments of sepulchres, walls, antæ, baths, and other vestiges of antiquity, supposed to consist principally of the ruins of Elorus and Icana; but very little has been found to give any precise information respecting them: the following is almost the only legible inscription that has been taken from thence, and is preserved, among several other relics, at Noto:

ΕΠΙΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΩ
ΑΡΙΣΤΙΩΝΟΣ-ΤΟΥΑΓΑΘ
ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΩΝΟΣ-ΤΟΥΕΠΙΚΡΑΤ
ΝΕΑΝΙΣΚΟΙ-ΙΕΡΩΝΕΙΟ

Vindicari.—About four miles south-south-west half-west from the Ballata di Noto, beyond the pretty coves of Sta in Pace, lies Vindicari, a small port and caricatore, situated near the sandy marshes of Rovilta. These probably were once the port of Machara, vestiges of which town still exist in the vicinity. Vindicari is de-

fended by a respectable tower of four guns; the southern point of the fort is formed by a small islet, called Macaresa, also bearing some antique remains on its west side. Refreshments may be procured, but not with facility.

Leaving Vindicari, a fine bay extends towards Marzamemi; and about the middle of it is a place called the Porticella di Reitano, where the common people, from tradition, believe an immense treasure to be buried; it has, in consequence, undergone some severe ransacking.

Marzamemi.—Four miles and a half from Passaro tower stands Marzamemi, a small filthy village, which, during the fishing season, is strewed with the blood and intestines of the tunny; as the people, however, are industrious, this Tonnara is one of the most profitable in Sicily, and there being a salt lake at the back of the Magazines, where the salt necessary for the establishment is made, the site is additionally valuable. The port, defended by a miserable tower-battery, is very small and shallow, with two low islets off it, affording but sufficient room for a few trading boats.

The coast, from Marzamemi to the southward, presents a barren, desolate appearance, and is nearly deserted, which, I believe, is principally owing to a dread of the Barbary cruisers. The soil is naturally fertile, and of a volcanic nature, disposed in horizontal strata of cinders and argillaceous tufa, in which other products are imbedded and intersected by lavas, containing, however, neither porphyry nor granite. Attempts have been made to improve these lands, but, as usual with the Sicilian agriculturalists, the desire of immediate re-imbursement makes them force newly-cleared grounds with successive crops of corn, until they become impoverished. The Prince of Giardinelli has founded the town of Pachino on the hills, the church of which, with the windmill near it, are conspicuous objects all round this part of the coast.

Passaro.—Below Pachino is a large valley, with an extensive salt lake, and two wells of fresh water between it and the sea. The evaporation occasioned by the heat of the sun causes the salt to crystallize near the banks of the lake. The canes and shrubs around are resorted to by a profusion of game. From the shape of the beach that shuts up this lake, I have no doubt of its having been once open, and that it was the Port Pachynus, where the Roman fleet was so disgracefully moored by the drunken Cleomenes, and where the hapless sailors were compelled by hunger to devour the roots of the dwarf palm, a plant that still flourishes in prodigious quantity.

On the point of the south part of the valley of Ginepre, and opposite Passaro Isle, is the large "tonnara" of that name, an establishment giving employment to about three hundred people, during the fishing season. Passaro Isle is composed of a curious aggregate of marble, lava, tufa, cinders, and oceanic deposits, and is high on all sides but the west, where it is joined to the main by a sandy spit, with two feet water on it. On its eastern point stands an excellent tower-redoubt for twelve guns, garrisoned by seventy-five men, with good bomb-proofs, stores, and cistern; it commands the island and coast for some distance, but would be infinitely more serviceable were a lighthouse erected on it, as this point is liable daily to be either the landfall or departure of various vessels.

This arid island, at the very extremity of the deserted wilds of Sicily, appeared, as if intended by nature and man, to be a place of banishment for the worst of criminals, under the control of some pardoned bandit; and on landing, the unfavourable prepossession was strengthened in my mind, by seeing two crosses among the dwarf herbage, to point out the spot where two murders had been perpetrated; though in Roman Catholic countries, crosses are, indeed, often erected, not only where murders have been committed, but also where a man has died suddenly by disease or accident, without the benefit of extreme unction. Our surprise, therefore, was great, on entering

the tower, to be met on the drawbridge by a veteran gentleman of the old school, with venerable white hair, and the order of Constantine decorating his neat, but antiquated, uniform coat; and still more, on his introducing us to his family, consisting of his lady, two grown-up daughters, and a son, who, with an air of politeness and good address, had been brought up on this sequestered spot. Our arrival was hailed by the family, the adjutant, and the chaplain, as a most auspicious event; and an hospitable kindness during the eight or ten days we had occasion to remain there, proved the sincerity of their professions. Still we found this remote community troubled with many of the agitations that disturb the peace of larger societies; and the old gentleman's vanity was conspicuous, by sending his invitations to our marquée on paper, stamped thus:

CAVALIER

D. ORAZIO

MOTTOLA

De' Marchesi dell' Amato, Maggiore de' R. Eserciti di S. M. (D. G.) Comandante Proprietario del R. Forte, ed Isola di Capopassero, suo Littorale, e di Real Ordine incaricato delle Funzioni di Commissario Reale di Guerra del medesimo Forte, e Deputato d' Alta Polizia, ec. ec.

This I have preserved, that the passing mariner, while he sympathizes (as is always the case) with the wretched people supposed to exist on so desolate a point, may, perhaps, be amused at a specimen of the Cape Passaro etiquette; and which will, at the same time, teach him that old officers can be found, who would rather shine in importance even there, than remain in insignificant obscurity in a town.

CHAPTER V.

Detail of the South Coast of Sicily; La Marza, Ispica, Modica, Scoglietti, Terra Nova, Caltagirone, Alicata, Palma, Girgenti, Siculiana, Sciacca, and Selinuntum.

THE south coast of Sicily is generally low and arid, and does not possess a single harbour for large ships, though there are several tolerable summer anchorages.

The tides, or rather currents, arising from the constant evaporation and the action of the winds, observe no regularity, rising a foot or two, according to the weather and the peculiarities of locality and depth; thus the north-west wind, raking the shores, promotes a strong set to the south-east; while the south-western, which is here very sensibly felt, during the vernal equinox, causes strong counter currents; and, at length, on its changing to the opposite quarter, the whole body of water rushes to the westward with considerable velocity. On a subject, apparently so vague, the experiments I then made could give little more than particular data; but I hope that, when combined with those I am making in other parts of the Mediterranean Sea, some general rules may ultimately be elicited. The medium heat of the sea, round Sicily, at a depth of from ten to twenty fathoms, by the register thermometers of Six, is from 73° to 76°; which, being ten or twelve degrees warmer than the water outside Gibraltar, accounts for the greater evaporation and consequent currents. Although brilliant results have been already obtained in the Atlantic Ocean, I conceive thermometrical

observations to be still in their infancy; and they seem to promise consequences so important to navigation, that such easy observations cannot be too often repeated. As some of my present operations in the examination of tides have been singularly unsatisfactory, it may not be amiss to mention my suspicion, that the lunar influence, though so well ascertained in the Atlantic, is very immaterial in the Mediterranean; and that possibly the sun's influence, notwithstanding the idea has been hitherto rejected, ought to be considered. Newton himself, by acknowledging that there must also be some other mixed cause for the return of the tides, was induced to regard his theory as incomplete.

In long settled weather, the currents between Sicily and the Barbary shore, and from thence to the westward of Galita, run to the eastward at the rate of from half a mile to a mile an hour. In the channel of Malta, the south-east current has occasionally been so strong, that ships have found it difficult to beat up to Maritimo; while others, driven to leeward of Malta, have been obliged to carry a press of sail in order to hold their own, until a change of wind enabled them to make the island again. Another proof of the influence of this current is, that ships stretching over from Cape Passaro to Valetta, with a northerly wind, usually keep a point higher than their true course, to ensure reaching it.

The Sicilian coasts are sometimes also affected by a phenomenon, called the mare-moto, which is the same in its effects at sea, as the terra-moto, or earthquake, is on shore; and appears to be owing to similar causes.

Cape Passaro.—To the southward of Passaro isle is the low rocky point, forming the east shore of Porto Paolo, and called Cape Passaro. There is a little village at a short distance inland, newly settled, with a view to the cultivation of the adjacent neglected plains. The coast has a melancholy appearance, there not being

even a fisherman's hut, or other indication of its ever having been inhabited, except the ruins of a small oratory on the eastern side.

To the southwest of Porto Paolo, is situated the Isle of Currents, a sand-stone rock, divided from the main by a spit with very shallow water, over which even small boats cannot pass; on its north-east side is a kind of natural mole, where the Maltese trading boats, called "spironare," sometimes seek shelter. From thence a bay called Fontanelle is formed; within which there is a small cove, between some picturesque white cliffs, called the Sciarra del Pescatore, where are remains of some ancient sepulchres in a kind of rubble work. The neighbourhood is low, marshy, and neglected, and overrun in many parts with a luxurious profusion of heaths, myrtles, fan-palms, capers, and junipers. Numbers of singular reptiles and insects abound, and every where may be observed the industrious little scarabæus, exerting its powers of mechanism in the removal of loads several times its own bulk.

La Marza.—North-west from the Isle of Currents, distant nearly six miles, is the small shallow bay of La Marza, where charcoal and wood are embarked; and near the centre of it, a spring of fresh water rises through the sea. On its eastern point is the wretched village of Castelluccio, surrounded by a square crenated wall; and some adjacent ruins are said to be on the site of the ancient Edissa: if so, this must have been the Odysseum, or port of Ulysses, and the scene of his horrible dream, and subsequent sacrifice to Hecate; or, perhaps, the present bay only formed the entrance of the port, and the salt marsh at the back constituted the harbour.

Here also lay the flotilla of Heraclio the pirate, whose audacity and success is related with such impressive vigour by Cicero, in one of his orations against Verres, on the fatal consequences of that Prætor's being induced, in order to facilitate the indulgence of his unlawful passion for Nicé, to appoint her husband, Cleomenes, a Syra-

cusan, to the command of the Roman fleet. I insert the passage, not doubting but that, having arrived hither from Syracuse, touching at all the intervening places in succession, the traveller will readily enter into my feelings, respecting this fine, though long, description.

"After the fleet had made a little way, (from Syracuse,) and was drifted towards Pachynus, the sailors, impelled by hunger, pulled up the roots of the dwarf palms that grow in abundance throughout Sicily; and with this wretched food the unhappy men were forced to content themselves. Cleomenes, who fancied himself another Verres, both in profligacy and authority, got dead drunk, for whole days together, in a tent upon the beach. But lo! on a sudden, while Cleomenes was in liquor, and the rest perishing with hunger, news arrives of piratical vessels being moored in the port of Edissa, for so that place is named. Our fleet was in the port of Pachynus. As there was a garrison of soldiers at hand, not indeed effective, Cleomenes hoped to fill up with drafts his compliment of sailors. In doing this, he had recourse to the same avaricious method as in the equipment of the fleet. For the residue was small, and the others were dismissed. Cleomenes, the admiral, orders the rigging of the Centuripan quadrireme to be put in order, and the anchor to be weighed. He made a signal for the rest of the ships to follow. This Centuripan vessel was an excellent sailer. No one knew the qualities of any ship, during the prætorship of Verres. Though in this quadrireme, out of compliment to Cleomenes, but few sailors and marines were wanting. The quadrireme had scudded out of sight with inconceivable rapidity, before the other vessels had left their moorings. The crews of the other ships had spirit and heart left. Though few in number, notwithstanding their plight, they gave out that they were willing to fight, and sell as dearly as possible, the few sparks of life, which their hunger had left; and if Cleomenes had not been so much a-head, there would have been some chance of making an effectual resistance. The admiral's ship

was the only one decked, and so large, that it might have proved a protection to the others: and had it come into action, it would have been a city, as it were, among those piratical feluccas. Deserted, then, by the admiral, they began to steer the same course: like Cleomenes, they made for Elorus. They did not so much fly from the pirates, as pursue their admiral; and as each was most in the rear, so was he the more exposed to danger—for the pirates attacked each rearmost vessel in its turn. The ship of Alluntium strikes first; her captain was Pilarchus, a nobleman of that city; whom the Locrians afterwards redeemed from the pirates. In a former pleading you heard the circumstance from him upon oath. The ship of Apollonia strikes next, and her captain, Anthropinus, is killed. While these transactions were taking place, Cleomenes had touched and landed at Elorus, while he left his quadrireme floating at large. The other captains made after him, since the admiral had landed, and they were unable to fight, or escape from the pirates. Presently the piratical captain Heraclio, who had gained the victory, contrary to his expectations, not through his own valour, but the avarice and wickedness of Verres, as evening approached, ordered a splendid fleet of the Roman people, which lay wrecked on the shore, to be burnt to ashes."

"O the bitter and afflicting moment for the province of Sicily! O the catastrophe, pregnant with calamity to so many innocent men! O the unprecedented turpitude of Verres! One and the same night consumed a prætor with the vilest lust, and a Roman fleet with fire! In the dead of the night, the bearer of the bad tidings arrives at Syracuse; he runs to the prætorial palace, where courtezans a little before had brought back the prætor from his revels, attended by vocal and instrumental musicians. Cleomenes, though it was night, dared not shew himself in public, but he shut himself up; nor had his wife access to him, to console her husband in affliction. So strict was the discipline observed in the palace of our illustrious prætor,

that, in a case of such importance, no one was admitted into his presence, no one who dared to disturb his slumbers, or interrupt him when up. As soon as the circumstance was made known, great multitudes of people flocked together from all parts of the city. For the approach of the pirates was not signified to them in the customary manner, not by signals placed on an eminence, nor by lights suspended from towers; but their calamity and danger were made known by the blaze itself of the whole navy in flames!"

To return to La Marza. Off this place, in July, 1815, I saw a beautiful phenomenon, the lunar iris, very little inferior in brilliancy and prismatic effect to the solar rainbow; the arc was nearly complete, the plainest termination appearing to be in the marshes, and the undefined one over the bay of Pozzallo; the moon was shining with bright radiance, light vapoury clouds hung over the land, and a lurid horizon bounded the sea. I have since been informed by the Sicilians, that this pleasing object is not unfrequent on this part of the coast, owing, they suppose, to exhalations from the swamps, and several peculiar localities. We vainly hoped that this phenomenon would afford a clue to the strange assertion of Fazzello, "Landing on the Isle of Currents, before the early sunbeams have gained strength, hosts of men and armed ships are seen in the air, that seem to fight with each other; but when the sun's rays begin to warm the atmosphere, in an instant those aërial fantasms are dissipated."

Spaccaforno.—The sandy beach extending from Grotta point, is broken, near the tower and oratory of Rosalini, by the rivulet of Busaidone, the limpid streams of which irrigate the lands of Spaccaforno, a walled town on a hill, giving the title of Marquess to the Cassaro family. Spaccoforno has many churches, convents, and public buildings, with a population of eight thousand people; and therefore is the only town, properly speaking, between the confines of Modica and the city of Noto. It trades principally with Malta, where it

sends grain, flax, carubbas, acorns, soda, and cattle; but the general appearance is not prepossessing, and poor dirty wretches, in miserable hovels, are seen in every quarter. It is a curious and peculiar custom here, to exclude all strangers from the town during the celebration of Holy Thursday, a festival solemnized with much pomp, and certain nocturnal processions, which, perhaps, for their own credit, are not allowed to be witnessed by the uninitiated.

Ispica.—Between Spaccaforno and Modica is a deep valley, among romantic and wild cliffs, known to the Romans as the Ispica Fundus; and, from being luxuriantly cultivated at the bottom, and having a rivulet murmuring through it, bears an interesting and picturesque appearance. The sides are excavated into innumerable grottos, difficult of access, of which the principal are, the Bocca del Vento, the Spezzieria, the Larderia, the Spelonca Grossa, and the Grotta del Corvo; but the strongest and most extensive of them all is an isolated mass, called the Castle: the ascent to it is by a very peculiar flight of steps, formed entirely by excavation, leading to the second story, and thence to the apartments through a low arch. Lower down, there are several monumental inscriptions in rude Greek. These singular dwellings are still inhabited by a sturdy semi-civilized race of peasants, who subsist on a truly simple diet, still seeking food in the berries of the myrtles, arbutuses, dwarf olives, stunted oaks, brambles, and other plants, with which the country is overrun.

These cryptæ appear to have been the earliest effort of a primitive and pastoral people towards a town, and are generally without regularity as to shape or magnitude; in after ages they perhaps served as a retreat in time of danger, and as a place of security on any extraordinary alarm, for women, children, and valuables. In this light, I was particularly struck with the resemblance these rude habitations bore to the caves I had seen in Owhyhee, for similar uses, more especially those in the Table Cliff, near the Morai, in Karakakooah Bay.

The Troglodyte villages of northern Africa, of which I saw several, are also precisely the same.

Modica.—On leaving the rivulet of Busaidone, a sandy beach extends to the white rock of Figallo, where, on a gentle eminence, strewed with ancient vestiges, a small oratory, dedicated to the Madonna, is erected on the ruins of a pagan temple. One mile from it, is the boundary of the Contéa of Modica, a county of about eighty thousand inhabitants, and possessing nearly a hundred and twenty thousand acres of land, endowed with singular privileges, most of which have descended from the time of Roger; the effect of them is seen in a very superior spirit of activity and industry among the natives, attended by greater affluence and comfort than any other agricultural part of Sicily displays, although it is not naturally so fertile as the rest.

Modica is in general rocky and hilly, with very bad roads; but boasts several fine extensive plains and romantic ravines. The soil is mostly loose, calcareous, and dry; many agricultural efforts are made to render it productive, and are crowned with success, as is testified by the abundant produce of corn, tobacco, oil, wine, soda hemp, wool, canary seed, cheese, butter, and carubbas; while, from the attention paid to pasturage, the cattle are in great request. This country also produces bitumen and salt, and although there are no woods, there is so great a quantity of game, as to form an article of export. The trade is principally with Malta, which is supplied from hence with the above necessaries, in exchange for cloth, spirits, hardware, and colonial produce.

The tribunal of Modica is independent, and its decisions, particularly in cases of murder, appear to be promptly executed, exhibiting less of that apathy, or mistaken lenity, which pervades the other Sicilian courts; were it not for their alert police, the festivals of St. George and St. Peter (each of whom have a cathedral in the capital of

the county) would often have been interrupted by the bloodshed of rival votaries.

But though the natives of Modica are not deficient in enterprise or commercial talent, and the quantity of cotton, wool, and other raw productions, arising from their agricultural pursuits, afford the means of giving employment to the poor, there is not an extensive manufactory in the county; at least we cannot denominate as such, one trifling coarse paper-mill, nor the attempt now making to avail themselves of the bed of bituminous brown stone near Ragusa*. The inhabitants, however, are perhaps in a healthier state, both of body and mind, following their rural labours, than if they were in the enjoyment of the fallacious prosperity of the manufacturing system; which, as experience has shewn, while it tends to enervate and debase the lower orders, and raise the aspiring capitalists above their proper level, it also brings on the whole community the danger of war, and all the consequent horrors and privations.

The capital city, though oddly situated amongst straggling craggy rocks, boasts some fine edifices. There are, besides, the populous towns of Ragusa, Vittoria, Scicli, and Chiaramonte; the latter of which commands, from its Capuchin convent, one of the finest and most extensive views in Sicily. A daring attack, made here by the brigands, ten or twelve years ago, has been attended with the salutary effect of awakening the vigilance of the magistracy, which had, in that town, been rather dormant.

Pozzallo.—Pozzallo is the principal caricatore of the county for the export of its produce, and affords summer anchorage; it has a small pier, several magazines, a baronial palace, and a church; and is defended by a fort, consisting of a battery, tower, and barbacan.

* The great proportion of hydrogen gas, contained in this stone, has been already mentioned in the first chapter.

calculated for a garrison of fifty or sixty men. Although a prohibition has been issued against the erection of more houses, and to prevent the migration of families from other parts of the country thither, it has a flourishing appearance, and the inhabitants are healthy and industrious. Black cattle, sheep, pigs, rabbits, pigeons, fruit, and vegetables, may be procured there at a moderate rate.

The coast to the westward, leading by the low rocky points of Gregorio and Corvo, at the distance of about six or seven miles, leads into the Bay of San Pietro, the second caricatore of Modica, where, on a rocky point, at the end of a sandy beach, stands a very miserable village, of about three hundred inhabitants. On our first arrival here, the weather was so threatening, that we hauled up our gun-boat on the beach, and finding San Pietro a very miserable place, we repaired to Scicli, where we got tolerable quarters and excellent food. On my succeeding visit, under similar circumstances, I retreated to a large kind of tower (a dwelling common in places exposed to desultory attacks) on a marsh near the beach, but which, though dignified with the ostensible name of Palazzo, was excessively filthy, and so infested with vermin, that Heliogabalus might have collected more spiders there than in all Rome; a sorry and unworthy specimen of Modica.

Porto Secco.—Leaving San Pietro, and rounding the point, a deep cove is met with, probably once a tolerable port, for even now there is often sufficient water for boats, and from thence, round the rocky point of Spina, there are several sandy bays, where small craft repair for cargoes, the principal of which are Donna Lucata, Mazzarella, and Porto Secco. The latter is remarkable as the site of Caucana, where Belisarius anchored with his fleet, and where Count Roger assembled his expedition against the Saracens of Malta. As both these armaments were formidable, and Caucana afforded them security, I infer that the beach between Longobardo and Cape Sca-

lambra has been formed since, and that a capacious basin existed in the intermediate marshy grounds.

There are various vestiges scattered over the whole of this nearly deserted neighbourhood, from the "Anticaglie," or ruins of Longobardo, to the town of Sta. Croce, though, excepting Caucana, we read of no place of great consideration between Camarina and Motyca.

This part of the coast was always greatly dreaded by the ancients; and, in the first Punic war, a formidable Roman fleet, proceeding to attack Cartalo, the Carthaginian, encountered a severe gale of wind off this place, in which three hundred and forty men-of-war, and onoraries, or horse and troop transports, to the number of three hundred, were driven on shore; so that the whole coast, from Scoglietti to Passaro, was strewed with the bodies of men and horses, and the wrecks of ships and smaller vessels. Polybius throws some light on ancient navigation, in his description of this disaster, by saying, "This misfortune was not so much to be ascribed to accident, as to the imprudent obstinacy of the Consuls. For the pilots had given them repeated warnings not to sail along the exterior coast of Sicily, which looks towards Africa, where the shore was open, and afforded no convenient harbour; but the Consuls despised their admonitions, and held on their course along this coast."

Two or three miles inside Point Plaja, on a rising ground, marked by a Saracen tower, stood Camarina, a city originally founded by Dascon and Menecolus, of Syracuse; which, after several vicissitudes, was, at length, surprised in the height of its prosperity, by the crafty Dionysius, on his disgraceful retreat from Gela; when the citizens, with their wives and children, were obliged instantly to evacuate it, and follow the tyrant.

This measure has been represented as the result of policy and humanity, to save the citizens from the Punic army; but, as they were forced from their homes without respect "either to old and

grave men, or to young and tender women," and as "the young gentlemen and ladies in marriageable estate were, unbecoming their rank and age, tumultuously, and regardlessly driven, led, and dragged, in droves through the highways," as Diodorus says, it is clear they were not free agents; and it remains doubtful whether they would not have preferred the Carthaginian to the Syracusan yoke, a choice far from rare among the Grecian settlements of Sicily.

The celebrated lake, the fruitless attempt to drain which gave rise to the proverb "Camarinam movere," is now a marsh, through which the stream, anciently called Hipparis, and deriving its source from the spring of Diana at Comiso, finds its way to the sea. There are scarcely any vestiges remaining, but the excavations of the Prince of Biscari here have supplied his museum with some of his rarest medals, busts, and vases.

Scoglietti.—On the northern point of Camarina is Scoglietti, a village with capacious magazines on the side of a small rocky bay, but, although one of the most frequented "caricatori" on the coast, it has no work of defence. The bay is entirely open to the heavy westerly winds so prevalent in winter, in consequence of which many vessels have been wrecked. Indeed, riding there has ever been attended with so much danger, that the small church (part of a Greek temple) is entirely lined with little votive pictures, and relics of trusty cables, from vessels that have been miraculously saved; and over the basin of holy water is placed a skull, with an injunction to remember death; "a needless caution," it was remarked to me, "for we can never look at the bay without bearing it in mind."

Between Scoglietti and Terranova, the river Dirillo, which rises near Vizzini, disembogues itself; this was anciently called the Achates, not from the faithful friend of Æneas, as has been asserted, but because it was celebrated for its fine agates: the famous anthropomorphous one, worn by Pyrrhus, was found here. The

Achates, as well as the Gela, may be said to have nearly exhausted their urns, for they have become very insignificant streams.

Terranova.—On a tabled hill, between the rivulets Muratio and Soprano, stands Terranova, on the much-contested site of Gela, and the neighbourhood doubtlessly constitutes the Geloan fields, so celebrated for corn; where Æschylus met his death, by the singular accident of an eagle letting fall a tortoise on his head. I have presumed to decide thus, because I think the spot has better founded claims than Alicata: not so much from the evidence of existing vestiges, as from the conclusive testimony of historic details. It is well established, that, on the repulse of his troops by the Carthaginians, Dionysius evacuated the city, in the first watch of the night, by stratagem, and arrived at Camarina by the following morning, a march as possible to effect from the one station, as impracticable from the other; not only on account of the distance, (the one being eighteen miles, and the other thirty-five,) but also because the road near Alicata is more hilly, broken, and difficult, and it would have been necessary to cross the large river Himera. On another occasion it is asserted, that Himilco detached a force from Agrigentum to encamp before Gela, which, being defeated, was driven back across the Himera. An additional proof is also afforded by the defeat of Agathocles, after his cruel massacre and pillage of the city; for the Carthaginians were encamped on Mount Ecnomus (over Alicata), and the crafty tyrant from Gela had his quarters on a hill, called Phalereus, opposite to Ecnomus, and there was a salt river between them; this he crossed to attack the Punic camp, on the west-side of the stream, and being worsted, with difficulty re-crossed it, and escaped to Gela.

Gela was founded by some Rhodians and Cretans, under Antiphemus and Eutimus; had numberless severe struggles for its existence; gave birth to Apollodorus and Timogenes, and was destroyed by Phintias, tyrant of Agrigentum, about four hundred years after

its foundation. There are but few relics of antiquity remaining: the most remarkable is a corroded Doric column on the sea-shore, of which four fluted drums and the capital lie on the sand, while another portion of the shaft is still erect; round the base an excavation has been made, to the depth of fifteen or sixteen feet, but nothing discovered, though there are fragments of vases in all directions, and many ancient coins are still constantly found.

The town of Terranova is well situated, but the streets are confused and dirty; and its castle, churches, and convents appear neglected, though the public hospital is tolerable, and the palace is a fine edifice. The population amounts to about nine thousand, who maintain a brisk trade in sulphur, corn, wine, and coarse cloth, which last article finds a good market at the commercial fair held in August; they ought therefore to possess more comfort than they appear to enjoy.

There lives in this town an extraordinary race of strolling musicians and players, who have all shared alike, for fifty years, and are thence denominated, "la compagnia degli uniti," or the united company, and subsist by performing in the town, occasionally sallying forth into various parts of the island. The greater part of the old stock have died off, but the children continue in perfect harmony, have intermarried, and a third generation is already beginning to step on the boards, nor are their attempts so contemptible as might be supposed.

Caltagirone.—Caltagirone, an opulent and extensive city, of twenty thousand inhabitants, tends greatly to the prosperity of Terranova, as a quantity of its produce is brought down there for embarkation by a tolerable road. It stands in a salubrious situation, on a rocky hill, and from various sepulchres and other remains, is pronounced to be on the site of Hybla Hærea: it is added, that having been repaired by Gelon, its name ought to be written Calata Gelon. When the Normans took the island, some Saracens defended

themselves so obstinately on an elevated spot, called Zotica (the present paradise of Judica,) that they were obliged to call in the assistance of the men of Caltagirone, promising them the territory, if successful. Having succeeded, and obtained the reward, and having since appropriated the revenues of the university or township, to the payment of the taxes, it is now the richest and best governed city in Sicily. But about thirty or forty years ago, in consequence of the taunting tyranny of the nobles, who, by ostentatious pomp and luxury, rendered the pangs of penury doubly galling, a memorable revolt broke out among the lower orders, during a scarcity; in which, after a member of the San Lorenzo family had been sacrificed, and one of the Gravinas burnt alive, the mob were victorious, and the families of San Lorenzo, Beremuta, Gravina, Sorrentino, and others, were obliged to escape to Catania.

The streets of Caltagirone are clean, spacious, well paved, and tolerably lighted: many of the palaces and other buildings are handsome, and the market is well supplied with provisions, at moderate rates; notwithstanding which, and the general appearance of industry, beggars and idle persons are numerous. A grand festival and fair is held for fifteen days in October, during which great sales are made of cattle, cloth, honey, wax, poultry, and agricultural produce. A kind of soft argillaceous earth is found here, and manufactured into tolerable imitations of the Saxon porcelain; groups of figures in the various costumes of Sicily, are also formed from it, with infinite taste; and the neighbourhood itself affords saffron, red and yellow ochre, bistre, soda, and other colouring materials.

The river Salso empties itself into the sea, between Alicata and the Fonducella; it is esteemed the largest in Sicily, and was anciently called the southern Himera; it rises in the Madonia mountains, and is rendered brackish by the junction of a stream at Caltanisetta, that runs from the salt-mines in that vicinity. Over this river, there is a large and spacious bridge, of a single arch, built by order of Charles V., the magnitude of which gave rise to the pro-

verbial saying, that Sicily contains " un monte, un fonte, ed un ponte," or, one mountain, one fountain, and one bridge, alluding to Ætna, Arethusa, and the structure in question.

Alicata.—On the right bank of the river Salso, stands Alicata*, a considerable " caricatore," for the export of grain and sulphur: it is an eligible military position, and has two tolerable forts; but the walls have gone to decay, and are lying in large fragments on the beach. The population amounts to nearly eleven thousand, and there are several churches and convents, but no establishments for education or charity, except a miserable alms-house; and the general appearance is that of neglect and poverty, although much employment is afforded to the lower orders by commerce, in summer. Yet even here, as in all the larger Sicilian towns, there is a Caffè de' Nobili, where the gentlemen are seen lounging their heavy hours away in insipid monotony.

The natives of Alicata are anxiously desirous of recognising in their town the ancient Gela, and have not only contested with the literati on the subject, but have assumed the figure of a bull with a human head, borne by the Geloan coins, as their symbol. The principal pretensions are founded on a rock, called from time immemorial, " lo scoglio di Gelone;" on a Greek inscription preserved in the cathedral, recording the honour of an olive crown, decreed by the people of Gela to Heraclides, the son of Zopyrus; on the plain being bathed by the Salso; and on a staircase, and remains of various ancient edifices near the Capuchin convent. These, however, are vague notices to be placed in array against historical facts, and there can be no doubt (out of Alicata), that this town stands on the site of Phintia, a city founded by the tyrant of Agrigentum, two hundred and eighty

* I have adopted the most generally received orthography of the name, but it is also written Leocata and Licata, probably derived from the Arabic word hkarta, or recovered, from some event relating to the Saracen fortunes.

years before Christ; and as he transported most of the inhabitants of Gela thither, and beautified it with sculpture from thence, the various coincidences before alluded to, are easily explained. But one of the clearest evidences is the hill itself, for it is distinctly the Ecnomus, on which the Carthaginians encamped. It was so named (Ecnomus, meaning wicked), on account of there having been a castle of Phalaris on it, wherein was kept the celebrated brazen bull, in which criminals were tormented to death, by fire being put under it, and baking them by slow degrees, while the cries of the sufferers gaining vent through intricate tubes, resembled the roaring of the animal: it is some consolation to add, that the miscreant who contrived this infernal engine, and presented it to Phalaris, was by a refinement in justice and cruelty, immediately thrown into it by the tyrant, as a trial of its effects*.

In no part of the south-east is the want of a port so severely felt as at Alicata, although there is every local advantage for forming one with facility, and at a moderate expense, as the two reefs of rocks, off the west end of the town, could easily be converted into excellent moles, (the neighbouring mountain affording stone and lime in abundance,) and the useless old horn-work of the castle might be excavated into a wet dock, capable of containing nearly a hundred sail of small craft in perfect security. At the urgent request of the inhabitants, I presented a plan for the formation of such a port, to the minister of war and marine, at Palermo, in which I represented the evident superiority of this spot over Girgenti, its resources, and all the particulars relative to its nautical advantages; and as the town volunteered to defray all attendant expenses, I hope there is the greater probability of its yet being accomplished.

* In the museum of the East India House in London, a toy is preserved, taken from the palace of Tippoo Saib at Seringapatam, worthy of another Phalaris: it is a tiger, nearly as large as life, over a prostrate British soldier, and by machinery the man's groans are at intervals drowned in the roar of the tiger.

PALMA.—Palma is a very respectable town, pleasantly situated on a hill, about two miles from the beach, overlooking one of the finest vales in Sicily; it appears to be under excellent municipal regulation; and its population, of upwards of eight thousand people, enjoy comparative affluence, arising from a brisk trade in almonds and sulphur. The adjacent country is, in part, well cultivated, and many cattle are reared; which certainly would be much finer if, instead of feeding scantily on wastes and commons, they were indulged with some good pasturage.

In one of the churches rest the ashes of Hodierna, the celebrated mathematician to the Duke of Palma, and author of many works on physics, optics, and astronomy; here he observed and published, for the first time, an account of the immersion of the first satellite of Jupiter, the eclipse having taken place at twelve hours six minutes, on the 27th of June, 1652. La Lande, in commenting on Hodierna, has assigned the position of this town as being in latitude 37° 20′ N., and longitude 13° 39′ 40 E.; but, by angles from Alicata, carried on to Girgenti, the position of the building called Calvary, (the probable site of the observatory,) is in latitude 37° 09′ 10″, and longitude 13° 45′ 20″ E. of Greenwich. My worthy friend, the Baron de Zach, says—"Les Sicilians prétendent que Hodierna devança Newton sur la décomposition de la lumière; mais le P. Piazzi a écrit à feu M. de la Lande, qu'il n'a pas vu une chose aussi exagérée; Hodierna observait cependant avec le prisme. On lui attribue à plus juste titre, une autre découverte, c'est qu'il fut le premier qui avança qua la reine-abeille faisait seule tous les œufs." It is somewhat singular, that the scene of the former scientific claim should be laid at Palma, when Girgenti, the next town to it, asserts that the physiological system of Empedocles, more than two thousand years before the days of Hodierna, was the precursor of Sir Isaac Newton's universal principle.

Westward of Palma, on the summit of a hill, stands the castle of Monte Chiaro, consisting of a large square keep with outworks,

but destitute of ordnance; under it the coast is a continuous shelf of rocks. It was in consequence of this, that so much destruction ensued in 1570, when Ochali, (by othess called Ulucchiali) the corsair, being to windward, attacked the Maltese squadron, defeated it, and drove the admiral's galley, with several others, on the rocks; by which the resources of the Order were so weakened, as to be able to supply only three vessels for the battle of Lepanto. According to another account of this disaster, the Capitana galley, and her consort, were purposely run on shore, after the surrender of the Sta. Anna and the escape of the San Stefano; not, however, on the rocks, but on the beach, in such a situation, that the knights and soldiers landed, with the intention of defending the vessels and slaves from the approaching enemy. Yet, in spite of this, the corsairs plied their grape-shot so well and so briskly, as to enable them to tow away both galleys, with their artillery, stores, and plunder, and several hundred slaves, who were thus restored to liberty.

Bay of Girgenti.—The river of Naro was anciently called the Hypsa; and on its banks was fought the hard contested battle, wherein the Carthaginians were defeated by the forces of Daphnæus, the Syracusan. It takes its present name from Naro, a considerable town, agreeably situated on an eminence, surrounded by fertile valleys and glens, ornamented with picturesque clumps of trees. From medals that have been found, and the numerous sepulchres, and other vestiges of former times, it has been regarded, but erroneously, as the site of the Phœnician Motya. At the mouth of the river there is a shoal and a bar; notwithstanding which, it might be rendered of great service, in the transport of the sulphur of the adjacent mines.

Between the mole of Girgenti and the river of Naro, is the Fiume di Girgenti, formerly the Akragas; and, though now choaked with shallows, it was the emporium of Agrigentum.

The mole of Girgenti was built by Charles III., the magnificent benefactor of Naples, in the year 1756, at the public expense; but the situation was chosen rather on account of the soil being adapted for the formation of subterranean granaries, than for its maritime eligibility. The mole is constructed with large blocks of marine exuviæ, consisting almost wholly of petrified shells; these stones were brought from the ruins of the temple of Jupiter Olympius, by royal permission. This substance does not appear, however, to resist the action and effect of sea-water as well as it did those of time and of atmosphere, its former opponents, for it is already so worn by corrosion, that it might easily be mistaken for a work of considerable age.

The "caricatore" consists of about a hundred houses, besides some extensive corn magazines, and a prison; with a population of seven hundred people, exclusive of two or three hundred galley-slaves, who are kept here at a heavy annual expense, for clearing the harbour of the deposits occasioned by the southerly winds. These convicts are condemned for all sorts of crimes, murder not excepted, for a certain number of years, or for life, to hard labour, and are called galley slaves, from their formerly having been chained as rowers in the galleys. They are filthy, riotous, and debauched; and, under pretence of soliciting charity, have a method of infecting the casual visitor with a portion of their vermin. One miscreant imposed himself upon me, by a well-written letter, as a gentleman, who had been thrown into this deplorable misery by the persecution of a certain person high in office; and so far deceived me, that I obtained the Governor's permission (although I could not alter his opinion of the man) for him to be excused from hard labour, until I had made some inquiries at Palermo: the disgusting recital that ensued, proving that, from the rank of a captain in the army, he had cheaply escaped with his present fate, made me regret the lengths to which I had proceeded in his behalf.

The " caricatore" has tolerable means of defence against Barbary cruisers, but would be ineffectual against regular attacks, as it would be impossible to defilade the old seven-gun tower to the cliff above it; and the mole-head battery is completely commanded. There are two light-houses, one at the mole-head, and the other on the cliff; both of which, though judiciously placed, are useless, from the badness of the construction, and the wretchedness of the lights.

The granaries of this place are valued for their peculiar properties; they consist of large conical matamores, or cisterns, dug in a dry calcareous rock with a saline taste; and, being entirely free from the effects of humidity, corn has been preserved in them nearly twenty years without injury. Nothing is charged for thus housing the grain for home consumption, though on doing so for export a rent is paid to the king, he being the proprietor of these caverns; considerable profit, however, is derived by his majesty in both cases, by the increase of measure; for when one of the matamores is opened, the corn is taken to the large magazines above ground in the " caricatore," where it is exposed for some days to the air, which swells the grain considerably, and the merchant, of course, only receives the same number of salms that he deposited.

Girgenti.—The city of Girgenti stands on the side of a hill, nearly twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea, from whence it has a favourable effect, as almost every house is seen. A tolerable road, of about four miles, leads between the sites formerly occupied by the ancient Carthaginian and Roman camps, over the Akragas, into the town, by part of the identical intricate path constructed by Dædalus for Cocalus, to secure the celebrated citadel of Camicus. The whole of this mountain is an extraordinary mass of marine petrifactions, consisting of oysters, cockles, sea-eggs, scallops, whilks, limpets, and other testaceous and crustaceous animals, in a most incongruous mixture.

The town is irregular and dirty; most of the streets, or rather alleys, are ill-paved, and not only difficult of access, but many of them are absolutely dangerous, and the whole aspect is rendered still more comfortless by a prevalent appearance of poverty. The number of inhabitants is estimated at fifteen thousand, (once two hundred thousand!) of whom the clergy and monks form an overbearing proportion. The public buildings are large, but generally without merit, excepting, indeed, the public seminary and the library, instituted by Bishop Lucchesi; in which there is a small cabinet, containing many valuable vases, some of which, could they be interpreted, or rather elucidated, would be eminently useful, as I have no doubt of the figures being emblematic of the Eleusinian rites, and therefore the depositary of polytheistical mystery. There is also in the same cabinet, a respectable collection of medals and coins; numbers had been stolen, but an excommunication being fulminated against the trangressors, most of them were privately restored.

The cathedral is a large heavy structure of the thirteenth century, and is remarkable for a curious echo in it, called the "Porta voce," by which a whisper is conducted from the entrance, along the aisles, to the cornice over the principal altar, a distance of upwards of two hundred and sixty feet, and is said to have occasioned some ludicrous cross-purposes at the confessional, before its properties were discovered. The baptismal font is a sarcophagus; which, according to the conoscenti, represents either the death of Adonis, of Hippolytus, or of Phintias, the tyrant, who was killed at a boar hunt, at Tuneta, while in exile. This relic, though interesting from its antiquity, does not merit the reputation it has obtained, there being many palpable defects in its execution: it seems copied from something better; and one face of it appears to be the work of a master, and the others of pupils. In this church there is a very rich chalice, and a pix, ornamented with a profusion of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Among other paintings, there is a valuable Madonna, by Guido.

As the "locanda" is wretchedly dirty, the Dominican convent is always open to the traveller, and he will, on acquaintance, receive every requisite civility; but it must be acknowledged, that a coolness has been maintained against British tourists, by many elders of the church, on account of the reprimand they received as a body, on the appearance of Mr. Brydone's publication; through which also the poor Canon Recupero, of Catania, lost his church preferment. It is to be regretted, that so lively a writer as Brydone should be so communicatively inclined, in his pointed mention of persons, and that he laboured under such a cacoethes, as to sacrifice a friend for the sake of a good story; whilst I must say, in palliation, that though a dinner, in celebration of an annual festival (like the one alluded to), with the additional excitement of English guests, and a new beverage (punch), of the potency of which they were not aware, may have led "these reverend fathers of the church" into a casual excess: their general conduct is very far from intemperate.

Agrigentum.—The high rocky mount, to the eastward of Girgenti, is called Rupa Athenea, and was formerly a strong natural rampart against the attempts of an enemy to the northward. Between it and the two branches of the river, in one of the finest situations imaginable, stood the opulent city of Akragas, or Agrigentum, founded by a colony from Gela, under Aristonus and Pystilus, and renowned through all ages for its power, grandeur, and commercial enterprise. Of this active state sufficient vestiges remain to bring, feelingly, to our recollection, the policy of Theron, the hospitality of Gellias, the ostentation of Exœnetus, the cruelty of Phalaris, and, above all, the talent of Empedocles, who at once excelled in astronomy, history, physic, rhetoric, philosophy, poetry, and music.

This wealthy city was immersed in the greatest luxury and sensuality when Hannibal and Himilco, or Imilcon, sat down before it with an army of a hundred and twenty thousand men. Proposals

were sent, inviting the Agrigentines either to join the invaders as confederates, or to remain neuter, during the impending contest with the Syracusans. Both offers being indignantly rejected, the investment was vigorously pushed, and the walls were violently assaulted. The citizens, however, manifested considerable spirit; and, in a successful sally, destroyed the moveable towers and battering engines of the besiegers; while a pestilential disease, that had been engendered in the enemy's camp by the demolition of the tombs, and which infected Hannibal himself, afforded them a temporary relief. But the fierce Himilco, after solemn supplications to the deities, sacrificing a noble youth to Saturn, according to their appalling rites, and throwing a company of priests into the sea, as an offering to Neptune, pressed his operations so indefatigably, that, notwithstanding the powerful diversion of Daphnæus, with the troops of Syracuse, Messana, Camarina, and Gela, his works were completed in the eighth month of the siege. At this critical period, a large convoy of provisions having been intercepted by the Carthaginians, the citizens were reduced to such factious despair, that they murdered their own Generals, and were consequently abandoned to their fate by Dexippus, the Lacædemonian. In this distress they formed, and executed, the resolution of evacuating the city, under cover of a long winter's night; and, escorted by the soldiers, arrived in safety at Gela, whence they were forwarded to Leontium, where quarters were provided for them. Some of the infirm and sick were unavoidably left behind, and some few preferred remaining: amongst the latter was the celebrated Gellias, who, having repaired, with some of his adherents, to the temple of Minerva, and apprehending a violation of its sanctity from the Spanish and African ruffians, then pillaging the richest of Grecian cities, set fire to the edifice, and perished in the flames.

The space once occupied by this city, is now a continued range of orchards and gardens, and of groves of almond and olive trees; the latter of which were the first and chief source of its wealth. The

south wall stood on a rocky eminence, forming a natural barrier between the two branches of the river, leaving a triangular plain to the southward of it, which was covered with the cenotaphs and sepulchres, so impolitically destroyed by Hannibal. The vestiges now remaining, are the tomb of Theron, and part of a wall, a staircase, a pilaster, and two columns "in antis" of the temple of Æsculapius. The tomb of Theron, which cannot be called either magnificent or elegant, is identified by its being near the sea gate, and the record that it was the only one saved; it having been struck by lightning at the critical moment of plunder. It is about twenty-eight feet high, and fifteen square at the base; is in tolerable condition, and consists of a square pilaster on a triple plinth, with a cornice surmounted by an attic, having a window on each side, larger at the bottom than at the top; and fluted columns, with Ionic capitals at each angle, with a Doric entablature: offering, on the whole, a strange mixture of architectural peculiarities. Some antiquaries maintain this to be the tomb of the horse of Phalaris; but, I believe, without any other reason than because the Agrigentines were so luxurious in their pursuits, that they were wont to erect monuments to their favourite animals; especially to those steeds that were successful on the course. In short, says Diodorus, the excess and luxury of the Agrigentines, by reason of their riches, was such, that not long after, in the very height of the siege, which ended in the sacking of the city, a decree was made, that no person, upon guard in the night, should have more than a bed, a tent, a woollen mantle, and two pillows.

On the eastern angle of the south wall of the city, on a bold rock, there are remains of the temple of the Virgins, generally called that of Juno Lucina; it is a peripteral parallelogram of thirteen Doric columns in depth, and six in breadth; its architectural character is that of dignified simplicity, combined with a symmetrical perfection of component parts. The columns of the north

TEMPLE OF CONCORD AT GIRGENTI.

side of the peristyle are still entire, but most of the others are dilapidated; the plinth, with a part of the entablature, are whole; but the south side of the peristyle, the walls of the cella, and the columns and pilasters of the pronaos and posticum, are in a very ruinous condition. From the temple a peribolus extended eastward to the cliff, and overlooked the Neapolis; it is of very large stones, as appears in the plate. At the west end there is an open portico, formed by two pilasters and two columns, commanding a superb view of the temples of Concord and Hercules, enriched by just as much foliage as gives architecture its happiest effect; while the town of Girgenti, the fertile environs, the busy road to the sulphur mines, and the blue expanse of the ocean, unite in forming an interesting and charming scene. The name of the temple of the Virgins, in addition to that of Juno Lucina, is said to have arisen from a famous painting of the goddess, by Xeuxis; who, in order to endow his portrait with grace, elegance, and beauty, selected five from among the most lovely of the Agrigentine ladies, and by an union of all their charms completed his Juno.

Along the sides of the hill, stretching from this temple to the westward, the cliff, consisting of a soft calcareous tufa that abounds there, and, apparently, an oceanic sediment, is cut so as to leave a kind of wall, which is very absurdly weakened by numerous niches, that served as graves, and must have greatly injured the defences. There are also several large cisterns, and some subterranean passages in this neighbourhood.

About half way between the sea-gate and the temple of Juno, is to be seen one of the most complete remains of the earliest epoch of Greek architecture extant. It is usually called the temple of Concord, from a Latin inscription in the market-place, being supposed to relate to it; like that of Juno, it is a parallelogram of thirteen columns deep and six broad, but it differs in each of the side walls of the cella, having six arched openings, without any signs of there

ever having been doors; these arches, as they are otherwise unknown in Greek edifices, have given rise to numerous conjectures among the architects and antiquaries. On each side of the transverse wall of the pronaos, a flight of steps leads to the summit of the architrave; and the whole temple, with the exception of part of the entablature and roof, is so nearly perfect, as to be a favourable specimen of the beauty of the system of uninterrupted lines, and its superiority over that of transepts and frequent breaks. Its dimensions are,

	Feet.	Inches.
Length	128	6
Breadth	54	8
Length of cella . . .	48	6
Width of cella . . .	24	8
Height of the columns . .	22	1
Diameter of ditto, at the base .	4	7

I cannot say that the superb ruins of the Parthenon of Athens excited an interest more in unison with my feelings, than the sight of this beautiful, but simple, fane; though the materials, extent, and execution, create a vast difference in favour of the glory of the Acropolis. The most injured parts of this structure were repaired by the present King of Naples; a service recorded by an inscription in large bronze characters on white marble, extending along the whole front, under the triglyphs, and forming a harsh contrast to the soft yellow tint of the marine agglutination with which the edifice is built.

Between the temple of Concord and the Sea-gate stood the temple of Hercules, once rich in paintings and statues; but of which only the foundation, a little of the cella, and a single dilapidated column remain. From the specimens scattered around, it appears to have been larger, and no way inferior in execution, to the two just described. This temple contained the celebrated picture of young Hercules strangling the snakes; and also the bronze statue of

that deity, which, Cicero says, nothing could exceed in beauty, had not the mouth and chin been worn by the kisses of devotees. To obtain this specimen of art, Verres attacked the temple in the night, and gave occasion to the humorous description of the circumstance by the orator; who adds, that the Sicilians remarked, in punning irony, that the gods, in driving off the plundering prætor, made as great an addition to his labours, as in the conquest of the Erymanthean War.

Near this temple, towards the sea-gate, are vestiges of a large building, supposed to be either the remains of a custom-house, or of the mansion of the hospitable Gellias; but I could discover no traces of the renowned cellars of the latter, that were said to be excavated in the rock. On this subject Diodorus says, "Polyclitus, in his history, declares, that, when he was a soldier in Agrigentum, he saw a wine-cellar in the house of Gellias, in which were contained three hundred great vessels, cut out of one and the same rock, each of which received a hundred hogsheads; and that near to these was placed a cistern, made of pure white tempered mortar, containing a thousand hogsheads, and out of which the liquor ran into the vessels. It is said, that this Gellias was of a very mean presence, but of admirable parts and ingenuity. Being once sent as ambassador to the Centuripes, all the people fell a laughing when he entered the assembly, seeing the miserable aspect of the man, so discordant with his great fame and reputation in the world; upon which he made this sharp retort,—that what they saw in him was not to be wondered at, because the Agrigentines always send the comeliest and handsomest men to the noblest cities; but to those that were mean, and of little note, such as himself."

On the opposite side of the road, are the vast remains of the famous temple of Jupiter Olympius, said to have been three hundred and forty feet long, sixty wide, and one hundred and twenty

high; these are certainly disproportionate and erroneous dimensions; but, from a comparison of the measurements of other Sicilian fanes, particularly the large one at Selinuntum, we may safely accept the proportions as being exact, if, for sixty, we read a hundred and sixty, an error that may easily have crept into the early manuscripts. Enormous blocks of stone testify the grandeur of this edifice; and, besides the masses of shafts and capitals, I saw the lower half of a human face, apparently part of a statue that ornamented the pediment, which measured a foot from the chin to the middle of the mouth, and two feet across from cheek to cheek. It is fairly inferred, that the principal entrance was at the west end; but the building was never completed, for when the Agrigentines were about to place the roof, the Carthaginian army invested their walls, and the wars that followed employed their whole revenue. It is said to have been denominated the Temple of the Giants, not so much from its colossal magnitude, or the sculptured story of the Gigantomachia, with which it was embellished, as from the circumstance of the capitals having been supported by atlantidæ instead of Doric shafts; but this is a subject of controversy, as there are many fragments of the shafts of columns, the flutings of which may well be said to be large enough to contain a man.

In the immediate neighbourhood are the ruins of the temple of Vulcan, and that of Castor and Pollux; the latter is singular, as being of the Ionic order.

The celebrated spring of Petroleum still exists, as well as the Piscina, which was excavated by the Carthaginian prisoners after the disaster of Himera. The form and magnitude of this monument of luxury may be still plainly ascertained, although its sides are worn, and the bottom is covered with gardens. A small stream from the ancient spring runs through them, and renders the soil fertile and luxuriant; it was about four thousand five hundred feet in circum-

ference, and upwards of forty in depth, and was formed to ensure a sufficient supply of fish and water-fowl for the tables of the great, in spite of contrary winds or bad weather.

Near the meta, or goal, adjacent to the temple of Vulcan, are the remains of the sewers of Phæax, another magnificent labour of the Carthaginian captives; and which, from being among the earliest and best of these erections, brought such credit to the engineer, that similar conduits were, by the Greeks, thenceforth called Pheaces. Passing the suburb of Camicus, a road leads by the convents to the heights of the Rupa Athenea, which do not appear to have had any buildings on them, except the delubri of Jupiter Atabyrius and Minerva, and that of Ceres and Proserpine: the latter, erected by Theron, is extremely simple, and without columns, and is reckoned the most ancient of the Greek edifices; it has been, with a few alterations, converted into the church of St. Blaize.

From hence to the gate of Gela, there are many vestiges, and the plain near the suburb of Neapolis, on the opposite bank of the east branch of the Akragas, is so covered with tombs, that it is called the Vale of the Dead. The site of the various camps, occupied by the enemies of Agrigentum, the remains of the forum, the small temple of Apollo, and many other interesting objects, may also be clearly ascertained; but, as it would be too prolix an undertaking to describe them all, I must refer to the plan of the place, for their relative positions.

Maccaluba.—Three or four miles to the northward of Girgenti, and on the road towards Arrogona, is the mud volcano, called Maccaluba, probably a corruption of the Arabic word "makloube," or upside down. It consists of numerous little hillocks with craters, on a kind of large truncated cone of argillaceous barren soil, with wide cracks in all directions, elevated nearly two hundred feet above the surrounding arid plain, and about half a mile in circuit. These

craters are continually in action, with a hollow rumbling noise, and by the exertion of a subterraneous force, they throw up a fine cold mud mixed with water, a little pertoleum and salt, and occasionally bubbles of air, with a sulphureous taint. The eruptions are more violent in hot than in rainy weather, owing, perhaps, to the outer crust acquiring a greater consistence. Sometimes reports, like the discharge of artillery, are heard, and slight local earthquakes are felt; until, at length, the whole is eased by an ebullition of mud and stones, sometimes ejected to the height of from thirty to sixty feet, though the usual spouts reach only from a few inches to two or three feet, increasing in violence at intervals. I was informed, that a warm sulphuretted hydrogen gas occasionally escapes from the fissures, but I could not discover any agency of fire; and Fahrenheit's thermometer, when immersed, rose only to 58°. The adjacent country is composed of a calcareous basis, intermixed with a large proportion of quartzose breccia, argil, gypsum, pyrites, sulphur, and rock salt; on the whole, this curious phenomenon claims the attention of the naturalist.

Siculiana.—The town of Siculiana stands on two hills, in an abrupt and barren country, at a little distance inland. The "caricatore" for the sulphur, is on the west bank of the Canna rivulet. Siculiana contains about four thousand five hundred inhabitants, who, having some commerce, and scarcely a convent, are comparatively easy in their circumstances; but, though the town is pleasantly situated, it suffers greatly from mal' aria, and the streets are very irregular. The houses are mostly built of a dendritic stone, that, being divided into laminæ, exhibits some good arborizations. On an eminence, a little to the westward, is the castle of Chiaramonte, calculated for a garrison of from fifty to a hundred men; but, as it is commanded within six hundred yards, and is in very bad repair, though it might answer as a defence against the desultory incursions of the Moors, it would fall an easy sacrifice to any other military force.

The chief riches of Siculiana are derived from its extensive sulphur mines, of which those of Cattolica are the most valuable. I went with Cavaliere Stealini (British vice-consul at Girgenti,) to visit some of these caverns, attended as usual by his "campiere," armed with a musket, sword, and pistols. The approach was marked by a dark grey saponaceous soil, white burnt stones, and a sulphureous smell; in the caverns there are many fissures filled with a beautiful calcareous spar, that shoots out horizontally from each side, interspersed with pieces of the pure mineral, called by the miners sulphur eggs, and, among other crystallizations, singularly fine specimens of sulphate of strontian occur. Sulphur, from its abundance, and consequent low price, is an article of extensive commerce; the mines, not running deep, are worked with tolerable ease; the earth most usually found with the sulphur, is lime. This is extracted by a very simple process: it consists in excavating the stone containing it from the mountain, and, when broken into small pieces, it is heaped up on a layer of faggots in circular kilns, about three or four feet in diameter, and fired by a small bush dipped in sulphur. In a few hours the sulphureous particles liquefy and fall into a kind of caldron formed by the bottom of the furnace, whence it runs from a small hole in the side into the square boxes placed to receive it; these are shifted successively, and left to cool: what remains is a fine variegated scoria, light and porous, and similar to that found in some volcanic craters.

For several miles to the westward of Siculiana, the coast is rocky and sterile, with only the miserable village of Monte Allegro, a place probably thus mis-named in irony: the poverty of the country is apparent in the melancholy appearance of its natives, who are in great want of the common necessaries of life; bread is scarce, and milk hardly to be procured. The fields look neglected: the humble palm, on which cattle browse at times, and the scilla, or squills, are suffered to overrun the few arable lands, though now and then some

ineffectual attempts are made to eradicate them by burning. In this neighbourhood the peasants make a common oil from a plant called lestincu, resembling the myrtle, of which it appears to be a wild dwarf species, but with a thicker stem and smaller leaf; the berries of this plant are boiled in water, and the oleaginous matter, which is both dirty and fetid, is skimmed off for use.

Bay of Sciacca.—Cape Bianco is a white promontory, about ninety feet high, with a shoal reef extending nearly a mile and a half to the southward of it. It was here that the companions of Minos, after they had interred their chief, founded a city to his honour; which, on the arrival of Doricus, being almost rebuilt, was named Heracleia Minoa. The vestiges of the site are so slight, as to induce many Sicilian antiquaries to imagine they relate only to Minoa, and that Heraclia, having been swallowed by an earthquake, forms the shoal below.

Between Cape Bianco and Sciacca, there is an extensive plain, watered by several rivers, of which the Platani, Majasoli, and Isburo, are tolerably stocked with fish; the grounds are in excellent cultivation, and the coast protected by several well placed towers, that of Verdura being the best. As the land, at the back of this plain, is high, and very rugged towards Calata Bellota, this part is easily known by strangers, on approaching the coast. These mountains, from their difficult access, not only afforded strong holds in ancient days to the bold rebels, Tryphon and Athenion; but their fastnesses were resorted to by the Saracens and Arragonians; and are still occasionally the haunts of associated robbers, who, under some notorious chieftain, lay the adjacent towns and villages under contribution. These lawless bands, like the heroes of Homer and Ossian, are influenced by a strange mixture of courage and rapine, of honour and cruelty, and pride themselves on a particular regard to plighted faith. They are, however, not so numerous as formerly, the presence of the

British troops having in great measure put down the system. The "campieri," or guards, who escort travellers and specie about the country, are many of them reformed banditti, who have stipulated with government to relinquish their depredations on the express condition of being allowed to follow this profession.

Sciacca.—Sciacca occupies the site of the Thermæ Selenuntinæ, one of the most ancient towns in the island, and the birth-place of Agathocles (who became tyrant of Syracuse); and, in later times, of the historians, Fazzello and Inveges. It is one of the principal caricatori on the southern coast, and is furnished with grain matamores, similar to those of Girgenti: the exports are corn, fruit, anchovies, sulphur, and barilla.

The town rises on an eminence from the sea, and is surrounded by an irregular wall (with the castle of Luna at its east angle), having a bastion or two towards the sea, in tolerable repair. Though, on approaching, it makes a respectable appearance, its aspect, on landing, notwithstanding its large churches, convents, and magazines, is that of poverty and wretchedness; yet the population amounts to eleven thousand people. The country around is luxuriant and productive; and trade is sometimes brisk. Sciacca, however, has never entirely recovered from the effects of the deadly feuds between the families of De Luna and Perollo, which have disseminated hatred and gloom among the natives, and occasioned rancorous civil wars for nearly two hundred years; during which, fire, murder, and desolation, wantoned in every quarter of the city.

The long esteemed baths of Sciacca are supplied from two springs without the town, to the eastward; the water issues from a white saline rock, in two distinct streams, one of which is sulphureous and hot, leaving a yellow stoney sediment, with a slight tincture of vitriol, and is esteemed excellent in paralytic cases; the temperature

is about 126° of Fahrenheit: the other spring is cool (59¾,) strongly impregnated with the saline quality of the rock, and highly valued for cutaneous disorders. The Stufe, or steam baths of Dædalus, in which Minos, king of Crete, was stifled, are on the insulated hill, and have actually been in use upwards of three thousand years! They consist of several sudorific grottoes, of which, the outer one has seats excavated in the rock; where patients, being placed, are thrown into a gentle perspiration, by a warm current of vapour, issuing from the recesses of the mountain with a moderate heat, and scarcely any perceptible smell. Near it is a cave, where the venerable St. Calogero lived and became the tutelary saint of Sciacca; and there is now, on the summit of the mountain, a hermitage and hospital, supporting a prior and several brethren, dedicated to his memory. As this is a healthy situation, commands an extensive and charming view, and is near to the Stufe, it is an eligible place for patients to reside in.

They say this St. Calogero, who figures so much in Sicily and the Æolian Islands, was a hermit, who made continual excursions to discover hot springs and vapours, that might be rendered serviceable to the afflicted; and that he rebuilt numerous baths at his own expense, particularly those of Sciacca, Termini, and Lipari: he was probably a Greek monk, whose name has been forgotten, for the Caloiro (as the Sicilians pronounce it,) is but a corruption of the Kaloyer of the eastern church.

Near the site of Inico, and on the fine beach of the Silvestra Valley, under Menfrici (about thirteen miles west of Cafre Granitola), the Carthaginians, after the death of Mago, landed to meet the Corinthians. Timoleon encountered them at the adjacent river, while they were crossing it in confusion, and, taking advantage of an opportune squall of rain, thunder, and lightning, blowing directly in the faces of the enemy, he achieved one of

the most glorious victories on record, whether considered in its political relation, the splendor of the spoil, or the numbers who were slain and made prisoners.

SELINUNTUM.—The immediate vicinity of the city, though offering but few commercial or political advantages, constituted the territory of the magnificent Selinuntum or Selinus, a Megarian colony, established by Pammilus; that took its name, not like most of the Greek settlements, from the principal river, but from the parsley growing on the banks of the Crimisus, a leaf of which was also adopted as one of its symbols. This inveterate enemy of Ægesta, the cause of such desolation to Sicily, was destroyed by the acrimonious Hannibal, after a most obstinate defence of nine days, in which the aged and the young of both sexes assisted, and who, after their capture, were almost all massacred. But although Hannibal is supposed to have thirsted to avenge the fall of his grandfather, yet he is not wholly accountable for the excesses consequent on the storming of the city, as he caused all the women and children, who fled to the temples for refuge, to be duly respected; and he afterwards restored to their possessions all those who had escaped to Agrigentum with Empedion, on promise of a slight tribute, and an engagement not to re-fortify the town.

Selinuntum was situated between the rivers of Hypsa and Crimisus, the Bilici and the Madiuni of the present day; where, in solitary ruin, on a lonely plain, stands such a mass of heterogeneous architectural fragments, as to resemble, at a little distance, a large city. The walls of the Acropolis, with their covert ways and gates, may still be easily traced, and consist of large squared stones; within these precincts, and near the centre of the town, are vestiges of buildings and wells, and the remains of three peripteral temples, which, by the regular direction of the fallen columns, indicate that

their destruction was rather the effect of an earthquake than of the rage of Hannibal.

In ascending to the town from the westward, the ancient Stagnum Gonusa, now lake Yhalici, partly choaked with drifting sand, is passed; but Sicily being deprived of the talent and public spirit of Empedocles, this valley is again as prejudicial to health as before it was purified by that philosopher, who, for that purpose, conveyed a stream through it. Excellent water is still procured at the site of the fountain of Diana.

From the city, a road leads, by the eastern gate, down an ancient flight of steps, over the sand now filling the cothon, or haven, to the part called the "Marinella;" where are the stupendous remains of three Doric temples: one sacred to Neptune, another the destination of which is unknown, and a third dedicated to Castor and Pollux. The adjacent country, by a ludicrous corruption of Pollux, has acquired the name of "Terra delli pulci," though Vella (the ingenious literary impostor) in his Arabic Code, differing in opinion, says, that when the Saracens captured the place, in 827, A.D., they destroyed the inhabitants, and named the city Beldel Braghit, or "Land of Fleas."

These vestiges, though only an incongruous mass of shafts of columns, metopæ, fragments of entablature, and scattered capitals, from their colossal volume, at once attest the mighty exertions of an energetic people, and excite the admiration of every spectator.

The substance of which they are constructed is a species of fine-grained, sonorous petrifaction, hewn out of quarries near Campo Bello, where the manner of cutting it is still visible, many masses being half separated from the rock, as if the excavation had been suddenly interrupted; but how they were removed remains a mystery, since the method suggested by Vitruvius, though applicable to the drums of columns, would not answer for the enormous blocks of the

capitals and entablature. I myself experienced greater difficulty at Leptis Magna, in embarking a capital weighing seven tons, than a shaft weighing twenty-three.

The large temple, which was dipteral, had porticoes of four columns in depth, and eight in width, with a double row of sixteen on the lateral sides of the cella; its dimensions, as near as its ponderous ruins will admit of measurement, are three hundred and thirty-four feet in length, and one hundred and fifty-four in breadth; the lower diameter of the columns is ten feet and a half, and several of the blocks of stone are twenty-two feet long, eight high, and five feet and a half thick! This temple is singular, not only from its vast magnitude, but also from the circumstance of the first row of columns on the east front being fluted (and, unlike the Doric style, each flute separated by a fillet), while all the others in the peristyle are plain. It is likewise remarkable for the regularity with which twelve of the columns have fallen, in a direction parallel with those of the temples in the town, the six shaft pieces of each lying in a line, with their several capitals at the end. I observed that these drums, besides the usual central hole, have mortised cubes above and below, which were filled with a cement, or other substance, harder than the stone, and must have been an additional cause of strength.

The various peculiarities and localities of these structures have given rise to a controversy respecting the cause of their destruction; but, from their general appearance, I conclude that an earthquake completed at last, the havoc which the furious Carthaginians had begun.

The coast, from the Marinella (where a fishery of anchovies and sardinias is carried on) to Cape Granitola, is a shallow beach, with barren sandhills, defended near its extremity by the tower of Tre Fontane. The surrounding country is covered with dwarf palms, wild olives and myrtles, abounds with game, and is uncultivated, except in the immediate neighbourhood of Castel Vetrano, Partanna,

and Campo-Bello; where the successful efforts of agriculture fully show the emolument that would accrue to the Duke of Monteleone, the proprietor, could he obtain permission from the Pope to cultivate the whole of this extensive possession. The Duke sometimes resides at Castel Vetrano, a tolerable and regular town, of no great antiquity; but in which may be seen a neat little armoury, and a good statue of St. John, by Gaggini.

CHAPTER VI.

Detail of the West Coast of Sicily, Mazzara, Marsala, San Pantaleo, Trapani, Eryx, Cofano, Favignana, Levanso, Maritimo.

THE west coast of Sicily is different in feature from either of those before described: the northern part of it presents bold capes and high land; but the southern is low and flat, and dangerous to approach at night.

CAPE GRANITOLA.—This is a long, low, sandy projection, with a reef of rocks off it, at the south-west point of Sicily; and, as the adjacent land is flat, the want of a light-house is seriously felt; for, in thick weather, it cannot be seen before a vessel is on the shoals, which extend to a considerable distance; and then, by the meeting of the currents, or other incident, the consequence is mostly disastrous, particularly during the prevalence of that uncertain stream, the Marobia *. Indeed, in the last twelve years, besides foreign vessels, by the Consul's Register, the English alone have lost His Majesty's sloop Raven, His Majesty's packet the Despatch, the merchant ships Mary and Hector, the brigs Rocket, Hermes, and John, the snow Minerva, and the sloop Ceres; besides which, while I was on the spot, one of His Majesty's ships, from Malta, was, with a convoy of seventeen sail, with extreme difficulty, saved from being wrecked, although one of the vessels which had struck served as a beacon.

* See a description of the Marobia, under the head of MAZZARA, next page.

These disasters would not only be prevented by the erection of a light-house; but a degree of confidence would be given to the navigator, that would certainly facilitate any duty in contemplation, and be of infinite use, as a departure, to avoid the dangerous shoals of the Esquirques. A good substantial edifice, about a hundred and twenty feet in height, and furnished with Argand lamps, reflectors, and revolver, would prove a public benefit, and might be maintained at an expense of less than two hundred pounds per annum.

Mazzara.—The city of Mazzara, though small, presents a respectable appearance from the sea, on account of the number of churches, which are conspicuous from their domes rising above the houses; the contrast, however, on entering it, is wretched; for the streets are narrow, few of them paved, and, consequently, dirty.

Mazzara does not appear to have been of much importance until the arrival of the Romans, as most of the inscriptions, coins, and other remains, are of that people; but it was, nevertheless, the place called Emporium, taken by Hannibal, the son of Giscon, on his march of extermination to Selinuntum. In later times, it was remarkable as the spot on which the first Saracenic army, escorted by a fleet of a hundred ships, landed, and of which they took possession, and from whence they extended their conquests over the whole island.

It is a place of some traffic, and contains about eight thousand inhabitants; large exports are made of grain, pulse, cotton, wine, fruit, fish, barilla, madder-roots, oil, and soap, but the want of a port for vessels of magnitude is felt in the winter: a few years since, the citizens had obtained permission to improve the "caricatore," and accordingly subscribed for building two moles; these were commenced, but the engineer, getting fifteen hundred pounds into his hands, decamped.

The "Marobia" is an extraordinary phenomenon, most probably deriving its name from Mare Ubbriaco, or Drunken Sea, as its movement is apparently very inconsistent; it occurs principally on the

southern coast of Sicily, and is generally found to happen in calm weather, but is considered as the certain precursor of a gale. The Marobia is felt with the greatest violence at Mazzara, perhaps from the contour of the coast. Its approach is announced by a stillness in the atmosphere, and a lurid sky; when suddenly the water rises nearly two feet above its usual level, and rushes into the creeks with amazing rapidity; but in a few minutes recedes again with equal velocity, disturbing the mud, tearing up the sea-weed, and occasioning a noisome effluvia: during its continuance the fish float quite helpless on the turbid surface, and are easily taken. These rapid changes (as capricious in their nature as those of the Euripus) generally continue from thirty minutes to upwards of two hours; and are succeeded by a breeze from the southward, which quickly increases to heavy gusts.

This phenomenon may be occasioned by a westerly wind blowing, at some distance in the offing, towards the north coast of Sicily, and a south-east wind, at the same time, in the channel of Malta, the meeting of which would take place between Trapani and Cape San Marco. I advance this idea, because the westerly wind most usually precedes, and the south-east succeeds, the Marobia.

Mazzara is surrounded by an old wall of Saracenic construction, without a glacis, and flanked by small square towers: it has an old ruinous castle at its south-west angle, which, though containing but very moderate accommodations, was, nevertheless, the residence of the unfortunate Joan, wife of Frederic the Second, about the middle of the thirteenth century; and here also Alphonso the Second, of Naples, retired, after abdicating his throne in 1495.

The public civil buildings are large and heavy, poor and dirty; while the ecclesiastical institutions are so numerous as to give rise to a proverbial saying, that every house and hovel in Mazzara contains a priest and a pig: indeed, the latter lie about the streets in such

numbers, wallowing in filth, as to justify the saying; they are gaunt, long-headed, black animals, without any hair to cover their disgusting hides.

In the cathedral-porch are preserved three sarcophagi, that were rescued by a garrulous old priest, from part of the foundation of an adjacent building: the finest of them bears a bas-relief representing a battle of the Amazons; the second, the rape of Proserpine; the third, and most inferior, the Caledonian Hunt. At the convent of St. Michael is a Roman tomb of the family of Albinus, and some marble inscriptions; these, with a small collection of Punic, Saracenic, and Roman coins, (several of the best preserved of which I suspect to be Paduan forgeries,) are nearly the sum of the antique remains. Nor are there any modern specimens of the fine arts, notwithstanding the heathenish Mazzarese shew as such, with great self-satisfaction, a huge figure of the Almighty! This abomination is composed of wood and stucco, tawdrily painted, and highly varnished, and is placed over the great altar of the cathedral. A picture, by Pietro Noveli, the Morrealese, in the same church, however, deserves attention.

The principal square has a singular appearance from the antiquated style of the architecture, which may be inferred to be of the eleventh century, from the equestrian statue of Count Roger destroying a Saracen over the cathedral gate. Besides the cathedral, the principal buildings in this square are the Bishop's palace, the senate-house, and the residence of the Count Gazziri.

At a short distance from the town, by a good road, made for the purpose, stands the chapel of the Madonna of Paradise, the tutelary patroness of Mazzara, and rival of St. Vitus in the affections of the townsmen. Here, at certain periods, the priests expose a handsome portrait, that the populace may perceive it weep for their sinful and wretched state; the farce is repeated more than once

a year, to the infinite emolument of the establishment, for there is scarcely a chapel in all Sicily boasting more "donaria," or gifts. The ceremony is prefaced by a discourse or invocation; music succeeds, and at the critical moment of the miracle drums beat, pateraroes roar, bells tinkle, and so much incense is burnt, that, together with the candles, the dazzling tinsel, and the crowd, it is impossible to collect the senses; and many of the deluded votaries are absolutely afraid to look up, but continue kneeling, sobbing, beating their breasts, and chanting their palinodia.

St. Vitus, however, by his peculiar care of diseased dogs, and other kindnesses, attracts almost as great a share of the regards of Mazzara, and his statue ornaments the entrance of the port. Near the castle, in the church of this saint, there was a well of hot ferruginous and sulphureous water, reported to be particularly salutary, under his special protection, in every kind of cutaneous disease; but it is now nearly dry. In the chapel, dedicated to him, there is a large silver image, which, on his annual festival in August, is embarked on board a vessel, and towed from under the castle, round the mole, into the Salemi river, with the senatorial band of music, attended by the principal inhabitants; and after about an hour's excursion, it is landed, amidst the firing of guns, the beating of drums, and the universal acclamations of the people.

Cape Feto.—Numbers of people, all along this coast, gain a living by fishing; and, on returning from their labours, may be seen reclining under their boats, that are hauled up on the beach, with their nets and baskets, exactly in the style so glowingly described by Theocritus, in the twenty-first Idyllium, which, from thence, may be presumed to relate to Sicilians, and not Egyptians, as is generally supposed.

On the whole of these shores the influence of an uncertain tide is

felt, running generally from three quarters to a mile and a half an hour, according to the winds; and sometimes it has a rise and fall of from ten to twenty inches, and, in very fresh breezes, even more, influenced, but not governed, by the moon; being most affected when that planet is in her perigee. This tide, I therefore think, depends on very peculiar localities, and must be allowed for according to the state of the weather. At Mr. Payne's house, on the banks of the Salemi, it was high water, in settled but light north-east breezes, at ten hours fifteen minutes P. M.

Marsala.—Nine miles N.N.W. ½ W. from Cape Feto, there is a low point, called Cape Boeo, on which, in a healthy situation, stands the city of Marsala. Between the town walls and the point, there is a small chapel of St. John, containing a good statue, by Gaggini; it is erected over a cave said to have been the residence of one of the sibyls; but it has since probably served as a nymphæum, or bath, there being a spring of fresh water, and the circular shape, fresco-painting, and grandeur of the whole, appear more than was necessary for the haunt of a prophetess. Among the crowds who repair to this place on the festival of St. John, many superstitious people are found, who drink this water as a proof of their conjugal fidelity.

Marsala, the ancient Lilybœum, was once the chief fortress of the Carthaginians in Sicily, and the capital of their provinces. It was a quadrangular fortification, with a stout wall, strengthened by buttresses and bulwarks, and surrounded by a deep ditch, of which the vestiges still remain. It appears to have been the most considerable of all the ancient holds, as a work of art, and eventually obliged Pyrrhus to abandon his conquests; nor was it ever actually taken by force of arms from the Carthaginians, but was finally surrendered to the Romans, after a skilful and persevering, though ineffectual, siege of five years, only in consequence of the victory gained by Luctatius

Catulus over Hanno, off Maritimo. It followed the fate of the other Sicilian cities during the troubles of the Roman empire; and, after the defeat of the Saracens by Count Roger, it was made a royal city.

Numerous fragments of masonry, vases, lachrymatories, stelæ, and other remains, sufficiently identify the site of this celebrated and contested hold. Many fine coins are found by the peasants; and the widow of Count Grignone is in possession, among other curiosities, of a superb and uninjured alabaster vase, which she very willingly permits strangers to see; she has been offered, to my knowledge, a thousand dollars for it, but she says, that, not being in want of the money, she may as well keep the vase.

In 1815, Mr. Woodhouse, the wine-merchant, digging in his grounds, to lay the foundation for a new "ballio," or court-yard, surrounded with magazines, found a sarcophagus, and some medals; these had the head of Ceres, with a lyre and plectrum on the reverse, and some a tripod altar; but, as many were of copper, it may be inferred, that they were not of the remotest antiquity, because the early Carthaginians, as well as the Sicilians, (from whom they adopted the use of coin,) stamped only gold or silver. This art was certainly brought to greater perfection in Sicily than in any other part of the world, of which the beautiful medallions of Syracuse are an evidence; and the several cities had their attributes neatly expressed in a variety of devices, generally deriving their symbols from circumstances connected with their history, or with the objects of their peculiar worship. Among the most remarkable of these emblems, may be noticed that of the early settlements of Palermo, Motya, and Ægesta, which was a dog, because the river Hypsa is fabled, under this transformation, to have led the Phœnicians, on their first arrival, to the spot where each of those cities were to be founded. Various towns have Trinacria on their money, expressed by three

human legs, sometimes placed round a head, with an ear of wheat between each, in allusion to the shape and fertility of the island. On the coins of Camarina, owls and swans are common, for Minerva was held in great veneration there, and the celebrated lake abounded with water-fowl. The coins of Leontium were stamped with ears of wheat, emblematic of Ceres, the great fertility of the Leontine fields inducing the especial worship of that goddess; or a lion, whence it derives its name, because founded by Hercules. Those of Himera bear a cock, on account of its Thermæ, sacred to Æsculapius; though others think that the name meaning day, it alludes to the early crowing of this bird; and one bears the curious reverse of a chimera, represented by the face of a bearded man, a cock's tail, and a lion's paw, derived, probably, from the three insignia of the town, Hercules, a lion, and a cock. Some of the coins of Thermæ have a man receiving water from a fountain, and a nymph sacrificing; alluding to Hercules having reposed there after his fatiguing journey along the shores of the Mediterranean. On those of Abacene there was generally a boar and an acorn, supposed by some to indicate the abundance of oaks in that vicinity, on the acorns of which the animal was fed. Catana bore some of the Egyptian deities on its coins; it had frequently a crayfish as a symbol, perhaps from being taken there particularly good; it had also an interesting historical little coin representing the brothers, Anapias and Amphinomus, carrying off their aged parents during a dreadful eruption of Mount Ætna. Another, very similar in size and execution, belongs to Tyndaris, and represents the twins, Castor and Pollux. Some of the coins of the island of Lipara bear the head, others a sedent figure, of Vulcan, sufficiently characterized by his hammer and pincers; yet, on account of the pileus representing a traveller, it has been conjectured, that it might have been struck in commemoration of the visit of Ulysses to that city, rather than in honour of the god. Some Sicilian antiquaries claim a coin,

bearing the head of Apollo with a legend, which they read ΛΙΠΑΡΟΥ, and a pegasus on the reverse, as belonging to a sovereign of Syracuse, named Liparus, of whom the only mention to be found in ancient authors, is that in the following passage from the Menæchmi of Plautus, in which Erotium says,

> " Non ego te novi, Menæchmum, Moscho prognatum Patre?
> Qui Syracusis perhibere natus esse in Sicilia,
> Ubi Rex Agathocles regnator fuit, et iterum Pinthia,
> Tertium Liparo, qui in morte Regnum Hieroni tradidit:
> Nunc Hiero est *."

This casual fragment of chronology also brings to light, as the predecessor of Liparus, a King Pinthias, (also written Phintias,) to whom they refer a coin bearing a female head, inscribed ΣΩΤΕΙΡΑ, with a boar on the reverse, and the legend ΦΙΝΤΙΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΥ; this, however, resembles the coins of the Agrigentine Phintias too closely, to give much support to this supposed discovery. The oldest coin is said to be one of Zancle, with a dolphin under the word ΔΑΝΚΛΕ certainly antecedent to five hundred years, B. C., because it then changed its name, and the hare became its device. The Agrigentine money bore a crab, designating a maritime city, until after gaining a victory over Messana, when they struck a fine medal, with an eagle devouring a hare. The symbols of Adranum, were Apollo and the lyre; of Neetum, Ceres and the ox. The coins of Megara, in Sicily, seem to be distinguishable from those of the Attic Megara, by a young horned head, and the owl; and those of Naxus, in

* " What don't I know thee, not Menæchmus,
The son of Moschus? who wert born, thou say'st,
At Syracuse in Sicily, where erst
Reigned King Agathocles, and after Pinthia,
And next him Liparo, who, by his death,
The kingdom left to Hiero, now king."

Sicily, from those of the island of that name in the Cyclades, by the figure of Silenus, holding the diota in one hand. Silver medallions and coins of Syracuse are particularly numerous, some with a beautiful head of Arethusa, her hair tastefully dressed, and, on the reverse, a quadriga and victory, with various emblems; others, with the head of Minerva, and, on the reverse, a Pegasus; and a host of those of Gelon, the two Hieros, Agathocles, the mysterious Philistis, and others. Several, bearing Sicilian insignia on one side, and the Punic palm-tree and horse on the other, indicate the union once subsisting between these states and Carthage.

Marsala is of a square form, and surrounded by an old wall, on which houses have been built; and to the four angles, bastions have been added: to the centres of two adjacent walls, other bastions are attached, but the works have no glacis to cover them; and there are a number of buildings, hollows, and caverns, that would materially assist any besieger, knowing the localities, though otherwise they would become obstacles. The situation is not unfit for a place of arms, as it is not entirely commanded; at present it is without ordnance, quarters, or bomb-proof stores.

The town boasts of a population of twenty-one thousand inhabitants, who trade in excellent wine, fruit, and barilla; it is tolerably well built, being bisected by a regular street called the Cassaro: on one side of which is the cathedral, a large edifice, ornamented with sixteen marble columns of the Corinthian order, originally intended as a present for the church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, in England; that seditious prelate being here the favourite saint in the calendar. There are several convents, aritiro, or place of retirement, under monastic regulations, three abbeys, a college, an hospital of seventy beds, a monte di pietà, and other public buildings: among these may be classed a steeple, belonging (but not attached) to the church of the Carmine, which they pretend is built on a globe, because it sensibly oscillates when the bell is rung; but the phenomenon

appears to be in reality owing to its height being out of proportion to its base.

Marsala formerly possessed a port, in such high estimation with the Saracens as to give rise to its present name of Marsa Alla, or Port of God: it is recorded that the Romans attempted, in vain, to destroy it; however, about the year 1570, it was filled with stones by order of John of Austria, to prevent Turkish vessels from seeking shelter there. This measure, though absurd and impolitic, has been too loudly inveighed against, for the harbour never could have been a national object, having been only a kind of creek, whose utmost depth was twelve or fourteen feet, and this I proved by sounding through the mud to the line rock, with a graduated iron rod. It was, doubtlessly, an eligible haven for the ancient craft, the size of which may be estimated when we find that, during the siege of Motya (close to this place), Dionysius was so hard pressed, that, to save his fleet, he hauled it overland, and re-launched it lower down. I am aware that some imagine the Romans had vessels that drew from ten to fourteen feet water; yet, I should suppose, not in the first Punic war, or they would never have rode at Lilybœum.

But, perhaps, the best conception of this harbour may be conveyed by relating, from Livy, the story of the Rhodian, who, by his superior knowledge of the shoals, baffled and vexed all the Romans.

" The consuls having lost several thousand of their men, thought it advisable for one of them to return to Rome, with his two legions, to hold the comitia, that those who continued the siege might be more easily furnished with provisions. Then they made greater efforts than ever to shut up the entry into the port with stones and earth, for they fortified the mole with great piles of timber, joined together crossways, and fastened with iron anchors, to make the whole more firm and compact. But these labours were all in vain, for the sea was so deep*, that every thing they threw into it was torn asunder

* From seven to ten feet in this part, and even then it was an arduous undertaking.

before it reached the bottom; and a violent storm of wind, and the swelling of the waves, broke and scattered all the mole. However, as the very report of their making this work kept the port shut up for some time, it gave the Carthaginians much pain and uneasiness, and none of them could think of any expedient, whereby they might inform themselves of the condition of their friends at Lilybœum, nor would any man undertake to go and see, till one Hannibal, surnamed the Rhodian, a brave and enterprising man, took upon him to enter the city, and, after examining every thing, to bring them back an exact account.

"The Carthaginians were rather glad at his promise than persuaded that he would make it good; for, besides the mole raised before the harbour, they knew the entry into it was guarded by Roman ships, which lay at anchor before it. But Hannibal having equipped a galley, which belonged to himself, sailed to one of the islands opposite to Lilybœum; and finding the wind fair, next day, about ten o'clock, entered the port boldly, in sight of all the enemy's forces, who were amazed at his audacity. The consul, in order to intercept him in his return, chose out ten of his ships, which he caused to be equipped in the night, and posted on both sides of the port, as near the entrance as possible. But Hannibal, depending on the swiftness of his galley, sailed out in broad day-light, and escaped the Romans, though they lay ready to intercept him, and pursued him as briskly as they could. Such was the swiftness of his vessel, that he was not content to have passed through the enemy, but even insulted them, and by coming up alongside of their ships, and sailing round about them, seemed, in a manner, to bid them defiance."

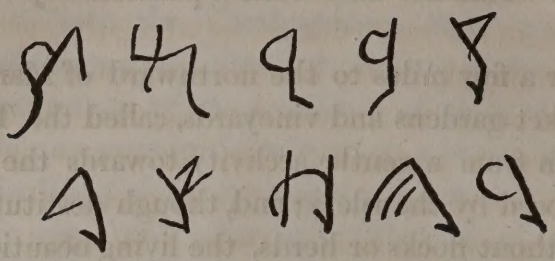
Mr. Woodhouse has weighed a sufficient number of the sunken stones to form a very respectable mole, opposite to his establishment on the south side of the town. But large ships must lie to the south-west of the city, at the distance of nearly two miles off shore,

because the rocks extend in every direction more than a mile from the land: a convincing proof, if any were wanting, that the ancient port of Marsala would not have been a political object in the present day.

The land, for a few miles to the northward of Marsala, is a continuation of market-gardens and vineyards, called the Terra Spagnola: it shelves down from a gentle acclivity towards the smooth surface of the sea, enclosed by the islets; and, though destitute of grass-plots or trees, and without flocks or herds, the living beauties of landscape, the view is one of peculiar interest.

STAGNONE.—The coast, from Marsala to the tower of Theodore, forms a deep bight, having the Terra Spagnola on the east; while on the west side lies the group of low rocky isles, called Stagnone. The most considerable of these is San Pantaleo, where stood the celebrated Motya, a city founded by Hercules, and so named in honour of a Sicanian woman, of whom he was enamoured. The hard-contested and bloody siege of this place, by Dionysius, was remarkable as the first occasion on which the catapult (emphatically called the "Grave of Valour,") was used; and there also were found, for the first time, Greeks in the pay of Carthaginians: a thing so resented by the conquerors, that they were all crucified after the storming of the town. It appears that this city long continued to exist, though it never regained its consequence; and that, finally, it came into the hands of the Saracens, who called it Zezabug, and established a fishery in it. Fragments of wall, with two flanked gateways, consisting of large square stones, still exist; and as they appear to follow the tortuosities of the coast, the whole island was probably surrounded with fortifications. Coins are frequently found by the husbandmen, when tilling, and the ground is everywhere strewed with pieces of terra-cotta vases, and ancient brick. Among other rarities found here by Prince Torremuzza, were some curious leaden pipes, that

communicated with the main land, probably over the famous causeway, near which was found the following Punic inscription;—



The whole forming data, that, compared with historical events, enable us to fix with precision a spot on which Sicilian geographers have so widely differed. The island, at present, belongs to the Jesuits, from whom it had been confiscated; but, on the revival of the order in Sicily, the Prince, then in possession of it, voluntarily returned it. This islet is about a mile and a half in circumference, and inhabited by above a hundred and fifty people: it is very healthy, and abundantly fertile, being remarkable for its delicious wine and the flavour of its figs. Its fine situation, as it were on a lake, will best be understood by examining the plan contained in the Atlas; which will also shew the judgment of the Saracens in establishing a fishery on it.

Cernisi and Favilla are two long low islets, connected by salt-works, and defended from predatory Moors by the towers of Villa Alta and Cuerisi. On the Borrone island, to the northward, are the Saline del Curto, the produce of which is esteemed the finest in the neighbourhood. Phosphorescent medusæ, and other molluscæ, are particularly abundant there in the autumn.

The beach, onwards towards Trapani, is flanked by the towers of Theodore, Miagrano, Nubia, and Calcara; and the intervening country, to some distance, is laid out in extensive salt-works, by the construction of innumerable causeways, about a foot and a half high, enclosing square places, which communicate by dams with each

other. Into these the sea-water is conducted by regular gradations, and exposed in a state of stagnation to the influence of the sun; as the evaporation advances, the bittern is successively scooped into the farther divisions, in the most distant of which the crystallization takes place, and a new supply of the nearest water is from time to time admitted, until the crust has increased to a certain thickness. The salt is then heaped up in pyramids, ready for exportation, without any precaution to preserve them against rain, except their form, and the hardness they acquire by time. About a hundred thousand cantars are annually embarked, and a great proportion is sent to Marseilles, the French having discovered a method of substituting it, in some instances, for soda, by an admixture of sulphur, the latter of which they procure at Girgenti.

At the back of these heaps (which, at a distance, resemble the tents of an encampment), stands Paceco, a healthy town, of upwards of two thousand inhabitants, that gives the title of Prince to the Bisignano family: as it was built about the year 1530, it probably derived its name from Pacheco, the heroic wife of Don Juan Padilla, of Spain. The space between the town and Mount St. Julian is known as the Field of Hercules, being the supposed spot where that hero is fabled to have wrestled with Eryx for his kingdom, against which the cows of Geryon were betted, after having been driven along the shores of the Mediterranean, and swam across the Faro of Messina. It produces sweet wine, corn, oil, and barilla; and near it is found a white viscous clay, good for agglutinating iron, and of which bells are made for sheep.

Trapani.—Trapani is a fortified city, on the extremity of a low tongue of land, at the foot of Mount St. Julian, and occupying the site of the ancient Drepanum, said to have been thus named from Dory Drepanon, on account of its resemblance to a Greek naval instrument like a scythe. Here Æneas landed on his voyage from

Carthage, to celebrate the funeral games in honour of Anchises; and the Columbaria rock still attests the geographical fidelity of Virgil: this is still called the Colombara, and in it the eye instantly recognises the Peliades of the Greeks, on which the oak branch was planted as a goal for the contending galleys. It was behind this rock that Adherbal lay with his fleet, on the night of the intended surprise by P. Claudius Pulcher, B.C. 237. I have no doubt that the shoals, extending from the salt-works opposite to Nubia Point, are those on which so many of the Roman vessels were driven on the disastrous contest of the following day; where, besides those sunk, ninety-three ships were captured, eight thousand men slain, and twenty thousand taken prisoners; while the Carthaginians lost not a man or a ship, and had very few wounded. Columbaria was afterwards joined to the continent by a mole, over a channel three or four feet deep, by Numerius Fabius, in order to annoy the garrison of Drepanum during the severe siege they sustained.

The antiquaries of Trapani are not content with tracing their history to the times above alluded to, but soaring to Ogygian ages, they easily find the period when the neighbourhood was governed by Saturn; from thence they descend to the giants, Læstrygons, Cyclops, and Sicani, with an amusing mixture of fact and fable, until, at length, it appears, that they owe their origin to the eastern shores of the island. It is a matter of dispute whether the Sicani were the same with the Læstrygons, or whether they emigrated from the banks of the Sicanus, in Catalonia; if the latter, the period of their arrival is unknown, but they are supposed to have established themselves on the borders of Mount Ætna. They seem to have been an industrious race, inclined to agriculture and the arts of peace, by whose efforts the skirts of the mountain assumed a picturesque aspect, and became diversified with villages, vineyards, and fields. This, however, was not of long continuance, for some violent eruptions of the volcano creating terror, and destroying their pro-

perty, induced them to abandon their dwellings, and return to the western shores of the island, where they admitted some unfortunate Trojans and Phocences (whose animosity had been quenched by their mutual sufferings) to share their territory, and the whole became incorporated under the common name of Elymi.

This state of affairs continued until about 1060 B.C., when the arms of the Opici spreading terror throughout Italy, the Siculi, Morgetæ, and Œnotrians, fled before them, and passed over into Sicily, where they settled in those parts that had been abandoned by the Sicani. Being of a martial and enterprising spirit, they made war upon their more peaceable neighbours, and, after several conflicts, having gained a decisive victory, confined them to the very extremity of the island; and though Eryx and Ægesta had been already built, perhaps this is the date to which we may ascribe the settling of Drepanum. From this time, it shared the usual fate of Sicilian cities; and was alternately under the Phœnicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, and Romans, the latter of whom honoured it as a consular city.

Trapani is entirely surrounded by a wall and bastions, with ravelins, in good repair, and covered by a glacis, extending from the castle to the horn-work on the land side, which, however, is not properly commanded at its foot. The entrance of the harbour is protected by Sigia tower on the point, the fire of which, at a little distance, is crossed by the light-house battery on Colombara; the works on the land side have their gorges enclosed for musquetry against the town, a plan not always to be approved of. The castle is in the north-east angle, but is quite unworthy the name of a citadel, with which it is dignified, being nothing more than a mere musquetry post, the residence of the military commandant and his staff; without it, and before the north line wall, an excellent cordon of stones prevents the passage of boats, and receives the first beat of the sea. On the whole, as there is water in the town, and the

salines offer a considerable impediment to besiegers, it may be looked upon as one of the most respectable places of arms in Sicily.

The town is commodious, and tolerably built; and, notwithstanding the number of priests and friars, its inhabitants, amounting to about twenty-five thousand, are industrious and enterprising, and afford the best artizans and sailors in the island. It has not only produced more excellent scholars, painters, and architects, but claims the recovery of the art of engraving on gems, which had been lost during the dark ages, and was again brought to perfection by Mazarielli; indeed, their principal talent, at present, seems to be in sculpture, and it is exerted on coral, amber, wood, shell, ivory, and alabaster.

The streets of Trapani are regular, and the cathedral and senatorial palace fine edifices; there are many convents and nunneries, and nearly forty churches; besides which there are two hospitals, a college, two seminaries, a well-administered Monte di Pietà, and an Oratorio dedicated to San Michele, in which last are represented the different sufferings of the passion of our Saviour, in terrific groups of figures in wood, the workmanship of the celebrated Tipa. The church of San Lorenzo is a simple and majestic specimen of correct architecture.

Excepting vestiges of the mole of Fabius, two mutilated lions' heads that grace a fountain, and an unimportant fragment or two of marble, I found no remains of antiquity, though coins of Drepanum have been occasionally brought to light.

To the westward of the town, and commanding a delightful prospect, is a well-designed promenade, called the Carolina, extending to Sigia tower, but as yet, like too many Sicilian undertakings, unfinished. In the Capuchin convent, by the gate, are some pictures by Carrera, a Trapanese painter of considerable merit; and in the same establishment is shewn a well-ventilated

catacomb, replete with skeletons. The Marina forms a good walk under the line-wall, ornamented with the statues of Victor Amadeus and Philip the Fifth, and finished with a tolerable good mole; on which is the Pratique Office, where the public health is actively attended to, and where integrity is better understood (or at least practised) than in most parts of the island. The harbour of Trapani is said to have been severely damaged by the great earthquake of 1542, and is at present small, but easily susceptible of considerable improvement.

To the eastward of the town is a long aqueduct, conveying water from the springs of St. Julian, and parallel to it a fine road, along the side of a fordable inundation, leads to the church and Carmelite convent of the celebrated Madonna of Trapani, an establishment rich, from being the resort of numberless devotees. The shrine is very handsome, and in it is a highly-finished statue of Parian marble, representing the Virgin and child, most clumsily crowned, though with costly materials; and, moreover, almost covered with gold and precious stones, while, to complete the whole, the hair, eye-brows, nostrils, and lips, are painted! Some assert this to be from the chisel of Gaggini, and to have been esteemed by him one of his best works; but others maintain that it was brought from Greece six centuries ago. I was there on the festival of the 15th of August, in which the most striking spectacle, to me, was a number of pilgrims, habited in dark dresses, with crooks and scallop shells, who had travelled thither from distant parts, and were received by the kind friars with the most attentive hospitality. Though I could not but condemn the practice of their devotion, I was unable to withhold a pleasing admiration of the sacred impulse that congregated so many people together in apparent happiness and friendship.

Off Sigia tower lie several abrupt rocks, called by the Trapanese "I scogli di mal consiglio," and said to have been thus named from

the circumstance of being the place where John of Procida, Palmerio of Trapani, and their followers, debated and planned the memorable Sicilian Vespers in 1282. In the appearance of these rocks there is nothing to justify the assertion, as they are low, craggy, and exposed; still it is certain the citizens of Trapani were very zealous in the affair, and received Peter, King of Arragon, and Constance, his Queen, with the most joyful acclamations.

Eryx.—At a little distance to the eastward of Trapani, is Mount St. Julian, the once-renowned Eryx, on which, at the elevation of two thousand one hundred and seventy-five feet, stood a temple dedicated to Venus Erycina, the most sensual of all the heathen establishments, and one of the most magnificent, the revenues of several cities having been appropriated to the support of its guards, soothsayers, and priestesses; the latter of whom were selected from among the most beautiful women of the island. The pure air and extensive prospect, combined with the fascinating ceremonies, and voluptuous dances, of the Anagogia, and Croatystriæ, rendered it the resort of all the debauchees, whose wealth enabled them to partake of its gratifications; and even consuls, prætors, and other magistrates, joined the general revelries. Eryx is at present an abrupt and sterile mountain, with but few vestiges of its former magnificence; those still existing are principally a few granite pillars, and some remains of a Cyclopian wall, which being the work of Dædalus, are pronounced to be the oldest masonry in Sicily; there is also a kind of cistern, now dry and filled with weeds and brambles, in the castle court, called the well of Venus; and coins, vases, amphoræ and pateræ are frequently found, as are also many leaden bullets, for slings, inscribed with imprecations. Wild pigeons still resort there, notwithstanding attempts have been made to destroy them, as symbols of the Pagan rites.

The town of Eryx was built by the giant of that name, son of Butes and Lycaste, a Sicilian damsel, from her beauty named Venus. Eryx was slain contending with Hercules; and the city becoming the property of the Heraclidæ, it was afterwards claimed by Doricus of Sparta, brother of the immortal Leonidas, after his unsuccessful attempt to colonize in Africa. In the time of the Carthaginians, it was one of the strongest of their cities: and Pyrrhus, wishing to distinguish himself before the Greeks in the island, attacked it, and carried it by a dreadful assault, performing prodigies of valour; and his being the first man on the wall, stimulated the attack. The town was razed by Hamilcar, in the first Punic war, and the citizens removed to Drepanum; but it seems never to have been wholly abandoned. It changed its name, according to tradition, from a circumstance connected with its siege by the Saracens. They were vigorously forcing a post at the part called the Fossa di Buscaini, and success hung upon their efforts, when suddenly St. Julian appeared on the ramparts, in a celestial coat of mail, and, by his terrific voice and menacing attitude, alarmed the infidels, insomuch that they tumbled over one another down the hill, and abandoned the attack for some time.

The town is also often called Old Trapani; it is situated on the very summit of the mount, on the part said to have been dexterously cleared away for the purpose by Dædalus: it is surrounded by a dilapidated wall with square turrets, has a high tower to the west, and a Saracenic castle with battlements on its eastern angle. It contains nearly eight thousand inhabitants, who appear indolent and miserable; and its public buildings, excepting the churches of St. Julian and the Assunta, are falling to ruin.

Records exist of another town having stood about half way down the mountain; it may have been where the convent of Sta. Anna stands, but there are no remains to indicate the spot. Perhaps it was lower down, at Imico, where there is a fine spring of pure water, called the Emperor's Fountain, from the circumstance of

Charles V.*, having sojourned there on his return from Africa. The springs of this mountain supply the fine aqueduct that conveys water across the isthmus into Trapani.

ÆGADES.—Off the coast, between Trapani and Marsala, lie the islands formerly known as the Ægades, consisting of Maritimo, Favignana, and Levanso, which made some figure in history, particularly in the first Punic war.

MARITIMO.—The westernmost of the Ægades is Maritimo, formerly Hiera. It is high, and about seven miles in circuit: with its west side inaccessibly rugged and steep; but on the east coast it has a better appearance, there being a village, or rather several straggling houses, called San Simone, inhabited by fifty or sixty people, who cultivate the arable part, collect a considerable quantity of fine honey, and export fagots to Trapani. Near San Simone there is good landing in westerly winds, and excellent fresh water to be procured; but fishermen seek shelter in a small cove, called Cala Bianca, at the north-west point; off the north-east end is a high steep rock, joined to the other land by an isthmus, and on its summit is erected a castle of sufficient strength to defend the small anchorage beneath, though commanded within musquet-shot by the nearest height. Here I found an old captain, with a family of four daughters, who had been fifteen years in his solitary government, and this, he said, was only the second time he had been visited by Englishmen; the first was General Campbell, who had gone there in the launch, after the deplorable wreck of the Athenienne, on the Esquirques, more

* This aspiring monarch, who is asserted to have held the universal globe at his command during one day, was supposed by many of his good Sicilian subjects, from his captious, yet extraordinary, enterprises, to have furnished the unrivalled Cervantes with the outline of the character of his renowned and whimsical knight.

correctly written Skerki *. The castle is garrisoned by about forty invalids, and is often used as a state prison; indeed, it is a kind of exile to all the persons residing in it, as it is very frequently placed under a quarantine of observation, which renders it a much worse situation than even Cape Passaro.

FAVIGNANA.—The next island to Maritimo is Favignana, the ancient Ægusa, or Æthusa, so called from the daughter of Neptune and Amphitrite: it was a considerable naval station with the Romans; and is still a very eligible rendezvous for a fleet.

There is also good anchorage off Cala Rossa, and this was the situation taken up by the Venetian squadron, under the "splendid" Admiral Emo, about the year 1784, and before that by the Russian fleet. Here advantage may be taken of any wind for going or coming; there is a tolerable supply of vegetables, fruit, and water. This would make an excellent quarantine ground for all Sicily, and for the cleansing of infected vessels.

The island is low, with a remarkable mountain stretching through the central part from north to south, rendering the whole not unlike a bird with spread wings. At the foot of the principal peak there is a fine cove, sufficient for the commerce of the place, and the establishment of a tonara. On the eastern side is San Leonardo, a very tolerable town, with wide streets and low houses, each provided with

* On the subject of this wreck, a very curious anecdote was related to me by Admiral Sir Sidney Smith; he had expected some important despatches from England by the Athenienne; and when he was awakened in the night, at Palermo, with an account of the disaster, he did not altogether give up hopes, but that, as the ship sunk immediately, and the wind continued fresh from the westward, many of the lighter packages would be floated out of the cabins and washed ashore. He, therefore, sent a party to watch the beach of the western coast, when one of his patrols observing a heap of sand, which appeared to have been lately made, concluded that some articles had been hastily buried there by a previous finder, and, raking about, found the identical despatches, with letters and other papers, in a small case.

a garden, yielding peaches, pomegranates, grapes, and vegetables. The principal church is large and clean; and the Purgatorio, where there is a catacomb full of skeletons, is a decent establishment. The population may be estimated at two thousand three hundred, exclusive of the garrison and three or four hundred convicts.

There are three works of defence: the strongest of which is the Castle of St. Catharine, situated on the highest point of the island, impregnable, unless reduced by famine or assailed by stratagem, and possessing full command of the town and harbour. It is not in good repair, but is abundantly supplied with bomb-proof stores and cisterns, and has a telegraph on its keep, in communication with one on the summit of Maritimo. The second is Fort San Giacomo, on a hillock near the port, and is formed by four small bastions, attached to an old castle, to which two ravelins, on opposite sides, have been added: the whole is surrounded by a deep dry ditch excavated in the rock, and in this are confined a gang of the most infamous wretches the tribunals of Sicily can condemn, who here wear away their lives in every species of vice. The third work is called San Leonardo, and is situated at the entrance of the small port; it is in good repair, and is well defiladed to the land; it has a small outwork attached, and is surrounded by a wall, which, towards the sea, is pierced for musquetry, but, on the land side, is filled in by a glacis, which does not, however, cover a quarter of the scarp.

Favignana gives the title of Marquess to the Genoese family of Pallavicini, who derive a good revenue from its tunny and anchovy fisheries, its quarries of stone, and the sale of sheep, goats, and poultry; whilst the grain, vegetables, and fruit, are principally used for home consumption. The island abounds with game, particularly the migratory birds when in season, and it is actually infested with hares and rabbits: the coasts afford plenty of fish, and the many little coves, sheltered by islets, encourage the pursuit.

Levanso.—Four miles to the northward of Favignana, is the island of Levanso, the ancient Phorbantia; but it does not appear to have been settled or cultivated until the last century, when a few houses were built in a valley between two ridges of hills, where a little grain and fruit is cultivated, and some sheep and goats are reared: great numbers of fagots are also made from the stunted woods, and sent to Marsala and Trapani for sale. The island is nearly six miles in circuit, high, rugged, and inaccessible, except at two or three places; there is excellent fishing all round the coast, but particularly near the sugar-loaf rocks.

Formiche.—To the eastward of Levanso, are two low barren islets, called the Formiche, or Ants, which I believe to have been the Araæ Rocks, where Æneas lost part of his fleet, and where the Carthaginians and Romans concluded a treaty. The largest is almost square; and is covered with large stone buildings, consisting of the storehouses appertaining to a tonnara, a stout tower with bastions, a chapel, and a village, inhabited by the fishermen, furnished with a fine capacious cistern for water. It has a port to the south-east, in which a few small vessels can lie perfectly secure; and I have more than once enjoyed its shelter in my gun-boat.

Bonazia.—Inside Point Emelia, is the fine and extensive tonnara of Bonazia, (a Sicilian corruption, I presume, of Panagia,) defended by a sconce in good condition, and possessing a tolerable anchorage for the coasting vessels that go there to load fish. The neighbouring country is watered by the Foggio, a rivulet that swells considerably in winter; but the whole tract consists of dreary corn lands, with scarcely any houses or trees to enliven the monotonous prospect; the people also seem shy, distant, and less civilized, than is usual with Sicilian peasantry.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the Sicilian Islands, consisting of the Group of the Æolian, or Lipari, and of Ustica, Pantellaria, Linosa, Lampedusa, and Lampion.

ÆOLIAN OR LIPARI ISLANDS. THE Æolian Islands, the Ephæstiades of remote ages, are a volcanic group in the Tyrrhenian Sea, forming the principal of the Sicilian dependencies. The ancients imagined they were the chimneys of a vast subterranean cavity, inhabited by Steropes, Brontes, and Arges; and that the caverns in which Æolus imprisoned the winds were in this Archipelago of fires. Here also Diana was placed by Latona in her infancy; here Vulcan forged the thunderbolts of Jupiter; and here the sooty Bronte embraced a rainbow, instead of the queen of chastity.

Quitting these mythological fancies, it appears that, in the earliest epoch, Liparus, the son of Auson, with a number of his followers, passed over from Italy, and settling in the largest island, built the city that still bears his name. Some time after, Æolus, the son of Hippotas, arrived with his forces, and marrying Cyane, a daughter of Liparus, succeeded to the throne. Being a strict observer of the meteorology of these climes, and frequently predicting the fluctuation of the winds and weather, (a very interesting topic to the islanders, from the sea being here extremely liable to sudden tempests,) he gave rise to the fiction of his confining the winds.

The settlement, however, notwithstanding the reinforcement of a colony of Rhodians and Cnidians, dwindled for some time; till, by

the incorporation of some Etruscan pirates, whose vessels served the double purposes of plundering and of transporting husbandmen to cultivate the adjacent islands, general prosperity once more advanced, and Lipara became celebrated for its magnificent city, its mineral baths, and its alum, sulphur, fruit, and fish. Since this period, the Æolides have generally followed the fortunes of Sicily and Naples. In the early Christian ages, they formed a bishopric in conjunction with Patti; but, by a license of Pope Boniface the Ninth, in 1394, the islands were made to constitute a separate see.

All these islands exhibit the corrosive effects of gases and spray; but the western coast, rising abruptly in precipitous masses, and shelving down gradually to the eastward, is an interesting geological feature, in which it agrees with the greater part of the West-India islands, and many others. It is remarkable, that, besides the western coasts of all the Lipari islands being steep and craggy, they each, with scarcely an exception, have a high isolated rock off their northern shores, a singularity extending even to Ustica. The basis of the whole of this group is horn-stone, with the various alterations and decompositions occasioned by volcanic influence;—an influence easily traced there, in all its grandest and wildest varieties.

The climate is highly salubrious, and the weather generally soft and refreshing; but, though there are a few trifling springs, there is a general scarcity of water, as the soil, consisting entirely of scoriæ, tufa, pumice, pozzolana, and ashes, without any intervening stony stratum, except occasional masses of obdurate vitrification, rapidly absorbs the moisture; the natives are, consequently, obliged to construct capacious cisterns, wherein rain-water is kept in a cool temperature.

Cattle are scarce and lean, because the pasturage is only fit for goats; but the lands are well-cultivated, and yield grapes, currants, figs, prickly pears, corn, cotton, olives, and pulse, the latter of which

are grown under the cane-trellises that support the vines. Rain, if violent, occasions great damage to the grounds, from the situation and friability of the soil; and swarms of locusts sometimes also injure the produce severely. A very considerable quantity of wine and currants is exported, and an active trade carried on in bitumen, pumice, nitre, pozzolana, cinnabar, coral, and fish; but alum, once a great staple, scarcely exists as an article of commerce: a failure supposed to be owing to the decreased heat of the subterranean fires. Sulphur is still exported, but not in the quantity it might be, in consequence of a prejudice existing that the vapour, arising from the purifying of it, infects the air, and injures vegetation.

The native islanders are contented, temperate, and hardy, and are esteemed excellent sailors; but, on the other hand, they are considered as inquisitive, mean, and immoral. They are generally poor, but few of them are in the extreme of poverty; and, from leading an active life, they are a very healthy race, though, from dirty habits, the itch is very prevalent through all ranks: among other qualities, they are accounted expert throwers of stones, a valuable talent in an unarmed population exposed to predatory visits from corsairs.

The names of these islands have been so frequently varied, that very considerable confusion prevails respecting them. Thucydides, Diodorus, Pliny, Strabo, Ptolemy, Eustathius, and Isidorus, all differ in their account of their number and names; while modern geographers, by the consequent uncertainty, have been led into great errors. The names, however, now in use are, Stromboli, Panaria and its islets, Basiluzza, Lipari, Volcano, Salina, Felicudi, and Alicudi.

Stromboli.—The most northern of this group is Stromboli, the ancient Strongyle, and, as its name would imply, is a conical mountain with an irregular base; it is upwards of two thousand feet high, bifurcated, and about nine miles in circumference; and, from every

indication, is a monstrous product of subterranean fires. The inhabitants consist of about twelve hundred contented and sturdy peasants, under the control of a curate.

The soil is a black mould, composed of argillaceous tufa, scoriæ, pozzolana, and sand; it is extremely fertile, with a fine verdure in the cultivated parts, and these, on one side, extend very high up the mountain; the hedges are of cane reeds, which, when sufficiently strong, are cut down, and used as supporters for the vines. Where the lava is not fertile enough for vines, they plant willow-trees, the stems of which are not allowed to grow higher than two feet, the sprouts (used for tying the vines to the reeds, and other purposes,) being alone useful to them. Here they make some of the finest wine in the Mediterranean, and grow a moderate quantity of wheat, barley, cotton, raisins, currants, and figs.

The principal town stands on the eastern point of the island; it is divided into the two straggling parishes of San Bartolo and San Vincenzo, each defended by a wretched battery, mounting one honeycombed gun. The houses are built low, and with flat roofs, to prevent the prevalent strong winds of winter from injuring them, nor are there more than two or three houses in the whole island of two stories in height. Vestiges of ancient buildings and sepulchres are visible in several parts; a proof that the horrors of the volcano have been disregarded also in past ages.

The beach, below the houses, is a black lucid sand, formed of triturated, ferruginous scoriæ, and schorls, having a singular appearance; it terminates in a rocky point, where is a large cavern called the "Grotta delli bovi marini," or Seal's cave; it is formed by the action of gas and corrosion of spray, and is eighty-six feet long, thirty-five wide at the entrance, and seven high. Off the point is a steep rock, called Strombolino and Stromboluzzo: it is a mass of indurated pozzolana, about two hundred and forty feet high, appearing, when seen at a distance, like a ship with studding-sails

set, yet there are fourteen fathoms' depth of water between it and Stromboli.

From San Bartolo the coast is formed of rugged lava to Point Sciarazza, off which there is a rock nearly even with the water's edge, about a quarter of a mile out, with forty fathoms, deepening to seventy, close to it. And between this point and that of Zarrosa, there is a cove, which being immediately below the crater, it is natural to imagine, would, from the continual action of the volcano, and the incessant discharge of matter for so many ages, be very shoal, or, at least, even allowing the stones to triturate, that a bank of sediment would have been deposited; the contrary, however, is the case, for I found gradual soundings, of from four to twenty fathoms, all round the coasts, even to the two points of Sciarazza Cove; but immediately under the cone, as nearly as I could approach, and even within the range of the ejected matter, there were forty-seven fathoms, and at the distance of a few yards, from sixty-five to ninety: an inspection of the chart will point out this more clearly. The circumstance is curious, and has not a little puzzled the sages of Stromboli, who, at length, after serious deliberation, have decided, that a gulf, at the base of the island, continually absorbs the ejections, and replenishes the volcano.

I was once going over, in my gun-boat, from Milazzo to Stromboli, when a furious south-east wind arose, and rendered it impossible to anchor before San Bartolo, where, on approaching, I observed the spray of the surf carried even to the houses: the only refuge to save us from being blown over to the coast of Calabria, then occupied by Murat, was to run almost under the crater, in a nook of Sciarazza Point, where, for two nights and a day, we rode in a state of partial security, as to winds and weather; but certainly not without considerable danger from the incessant showers of red-hot stones, that were hurled aloft from the crater with amazing rapidity, and most of which fell very near us, while some of them exploded in the air

with a whizzing sound, like the fragments of bomb-shells after bursting. The explosions followed each other in quick succession, (not more than from five to ten minutes elapsing between) with a report like distant artillery; the moment of ejection was accompanied by brisk rattling detonations, and a full glare of fire, illuminating the storm at intervals, and presenting an awful but magnificent spectacle. At times, however, when the wind shifted a point or two, our admiration was checked, and we were obliged to run below, to avoid the thick cloud of minute sand and ashes that instantly covered the vessel, and filled her with a suffocating heat. Finding the gale continued so violent, that I was unable to row round to San Bartolo, I determined to crawl up a steep ravine, between our position and the crater, as the only means that offered of communicating with the shore: this enterprise was one of the most difficult I ever undertook, and willingly would I have relinquished it when I had advanced half way up; but the looseness of the soil, consisting only of fragments of lava and cinders, which, by my efforts in ascending, were continually rolling into the sea below me, utterly precluded a return. At length, weary, and almost exhausted, I gained the summit of the cliff, where I found the two hospitable priests of the island waiting to congratulate me on the success of my rashness, and conduct me to such entertainment as the villages afforded.

From Point Zarrosa to Point Inostra, is a rugged lava, on which stands the village of that name, with the church of San Nicolo, where a daring brigand, known and dreaded by the name of Testa-grossa, lies interred. The coast continues rocky as far as Lazara, a village of fifteen or twenty houses, on a low shingly point; and along the shore, from thence to San Vincenzo, are several caves. One of these, over Point Lana, at the Malpasso, and a little way up the hill, is remarkable as the place where the lucid and beautiful mineral, called specular iron, is found. This grotto is not more than ten feet in

length, six in breadth, and five and a half in height, with an entrance scarcely four feet wide. The specular iron is either dispersed in minute particles through the mass of the lava, or is collected in crystallized laminæ, of beautiful iridescence, in the fissures; it resembles polished steel, and possesses a slight degree of polarity. This lava does not essentially differ from others in the island with a horn stone base; only it has been rendered friable, and varies in colour from grey to a pinkish hue; it is porous, and of a rough grain like sand-stone.

I determined, among the first objects, to visit the site of the old crater, which they told me was visible on Mount Schicciola, the highest part of the volcano, and which must have been the one burning in Aristotle's time. The ascent, after passing the cultivated grounds, is most wearisome; and, on approaching the part where the fires are now raging, it becomes dangerous in high gales, being a vast ridge of loose cinders and volcanic ashes; nor could we, as the wind was to the south-east, approach near enough to look into the boiling caldron, lest we should be forced into it, for the wind was so strong, that we could scarcely stand. From this fearful cliff we pursued our journey upwards, by a rugged tract that led between the two summits of Schicciola, where we saw the vestiges of an igni-vomous cavity, stated to have been the ancient crater; and not far from it we found a small spring of fresh water, that undoubtedly supplies the constant fountain over San Vincenzo.

Having thus been disappointed of a view of the active crater, I determined on setting out again with the first fine weather; and, accordingly, the following day being tolerably clear, although still aching from the fatigues of the climb up Monte Schicciola, I set forth, in the morning, accompanied by two sturdy islanders, all of us provided with strong reeds as walking sticks. About noon, having gained the high grounds, we entered a peasant's house, and dined on the fare we had brought with us, to which our host added some

currants and figs. In the adjoining house lived one of those poor devotees, called monaca di casa, or house-nuns, to whose usual vow of chastity, was, in this instance, added that of always living alone. Though reputed a witch, she was sitting at her door spinning very industriously, and had a miserably squalid subdued appearance.

After refreshing ourselves, and waiting for the meridian heat to subside, we started onwards in high spirits, and leaving the vine-yards, we clambered up, by the help of the willows and brooms, to a considerable height; after which the ascent among the scoriæ became difficult, and the footing uncertain. The journey to the summit of Vesuvius, or even to that of Ætna, I found a trifling exertion, compared with the violent exercise of climbing up Stromboli; and my efforts were the more fatiguing from being hurried, as my companions, who were young men of the island, well inured to the mountain, by their agility and strength, were always a-head of me. At length we turned round a summit of the ridge, and, all at once, obtained a partial sight of the object of our wishes. The point we had arrived at was above the crater; we then continued to descend, and to advance, until it suddenly burst into a fuller view, with a most imposing and appalling effect. Here we took up our station to await the approach of night; and in this awful spot enjoyed one of the most magnificent spectacles that nature can display.

The crater is about one-third of the way down the side of the mountain, and is continually burning, with frequent explosions, and a constant ejection of fiery matter: it is of a circular form, and about a hundred and seventy yards in diameter, with a yellow efflorescence adhering to its sides, as to those of Ætna. When the smoke cleared away, we perceived an undulating ignited substance which, at short intervals, rose and fell in great agitation; and, when swollen to the utmost height, burst with a violent explosion, and a discharge of red-hot stones, in a semi-fluid state, accompanied with showers of ashes and sand, and a strong sulphureous smell. The masses are usually

thrown up to the height of from sixty or seventy to three hundred feet; but some, the descent of which I computed to occupy from nine to twelve seconds, must have ascended above a thousand. In the moderate ejections, the stones in their ascent gradually diverged, like a grand pyrotechnical exhibition, and fell into the abyss again; except on the side next the sea, where they rolled down in quick succession, after bounding from the declivity to a considerable distance in the water. A few fell near us, into which, while in their fluid state, we thrust small pieces of money, as memorials for friends.

I enjoyed this superb sight, until nearly ten o'clock; and, as it was uncommonly dark, our situation was the more dreadful and grand, for every explosion shewed the abrupt precipice beneath and the foam of the furious waves breaking against the rocks, so far below us as to be unheard; while the detonations of the volcano shook the very ground we sat on. At length, the night getting excessively cold, I determined to descend, and accordingly was conducted down the other side of the ridge, (a comparatively easy journey,) by which we rapidly reached the vineyards, our feet sinking ancle deep at each step; and in about an hour we entered the cottage of one of my guides, the hospitable Saverio.

The crater of this mountain is on the north-west side, and has burnt without intermission from the earliest periods; this incessant fire is supposed to be supported by oxygen, pyrites, and sulphur, but there are no traces of the aid of bitumen. It appears to be not only the vent of all these islands, but to have a subterraneous communication also with Sicily and Italy, for previous to a severe earthquake taking place in those parts, Stromboli has been observed to be covered with dense clouds of smoke, and to emit, with increased activity, unusually ardent flames. It appears, moreover, from the concurrent relation of the islanders, to be influenced by atmospheric changes, as storms, particularly those from the southward, are preceded by thick volumes of smoke, so that the native pilots are

guided at night by its flame, and gain intimations of the weather in the day-time by its smoke.

Superstition, of course, is not idle with respect to this wonderful abyss, and even Pope Gregory I. seriously believed it to be the abode of the damned! Here Theodoric, the great Ostrogoth, despite of his virtues, was plunged by the ministers of divine vengeance on earth; while William the Bad, of Sicily, and poor Henry VIII., of England, have both been detected endeavouring to make their escape from this fiery caldron. An eminent contractor of biscuit for the supply of the British Navy, is supposed, among English sailors, to be in durance there; and by a remarkable trial at Doctor's Commons, about seventy or eighty years ago, the judge in his decision, seemed to acquiesce in the opinion of his being consigned to its domains for ever. The culprit was a Mr. B——; I have forgotten the name, but I can never lose the remembrance of the effect that reading this trial from the Naval Chronicle had on a naval audience, while passing the Island.

Panaria and Islets.—The group of Dattoli comprehends all those shattered fragments round Panaria, that are supposed to have once formed but a single island, and are thus called from their similitude to a cluster, in which form dates grow. They are imagined to have formed the periphery of an immense crater, from the circumstances of their having a common granitic base, containing quartz, mica, and feldspar, from their vitrifications being similar, their strata inclining to a common centre, and their bearing evidences of a more rapid and peculiar decomposition than the other islands. On these grounds, the Sicilian sçavans advance an opinion, that they constituted the long-lost Evonymus of Plato.

It is probable, indeed, that, in ages beyond historic reach, these rocks actually did form an immense volcano, considerably larger than any of the Æolides now existing; and which, by the combined

action of the sea and of gas, were thus detached. But as the contested island is stated to have been one of the smallest, I cannot see why Panaria itself should not be the identical place; though, when I read that it was on the left hand in sailing from Lipari to Messina, I had some doubts as to whether the shoal I discovered, and named Exmouth bank, might not have been the precise spot. From the records of the Æolides, and my local examination of the bay or crater of Naples, the Azores, and Canary Islands, and various other volcanic places, I am more inclined to believe in the influence of the sea and atmosphere in destroying volcanic islands, than in their totally sinking again into an abyss; and still more so from an occurrence that happened while I was on the Cadiz station, and which greatly interested us all: I allude to the gradual formation of the island of Sabrina in the summer of 1811. It rose to the height of two or three hundred feet, half a league from St. Michael's in the Azores, and in a spot where the sea had been nearly forty fathoms' deep. This island acquired the circumference of a mile, and continued for some time exhibiting the most magnificent volcanic phenomena; in the autumn it had again disappeared, but left a dangerous shoal, and smoke was seen rising from the sea near the spot for many months after.

It would appear from this well-authenticated fact, that the submarine volcano, however violent, has an almost equally active enemy which operates on the friable structure; though its efforts have been so frequently repeated in this neighbourhood, that perhaps in the course of ages, a succession of banks, may ultimately form an extensive foundation, enabling subsequent eruptions to leave as huge monuments of their power as those of Teneriffe or Ætna. But arduous and mighty must be the contest of the fires with the sea and the atmosphere. No sooner is an island formed, than, from the peculiar nature of the materials, the work of decomposition and destruction is commenced b these united agents. It is stated, that

about fifteen leagues to the westward of the spot just mentioned, in the Azores, a volcano that had appeared in 1638, again emerged from the sea in 1719, and disappeared a second time in 1723; and Jones, in his Physiological Disquisitions, says, "in the year 1757, in the month of July, all the Azores suffered greatly by an earthquake; eighteen new islands appeared, and considerable tracks of the old ones were swallowed up."

Panaria was called Thermisia by the Romans, on account of its warm baths, and there are numerous vestiges proving it to have been a place of consideration: these consist of various fragments of sepulchres; and utensils and coins have been frequently found. The island is nearly seven miles in circumference, and contains about two hundred inhabitants; the soil is very rich, and being well cultivated, particularly to the eastward, produces wheat, barley, fruit, oil, wine, pulse, and soda; and fishing is also a profitable employment. There is a very good port for small vessels, called the Cala del Castello, from a hill above it with a peaked summit resembling a castle; it is on the south side of the island, and has the only beach of yellow sand in the Æolides.

Basiluzzo is the next in magnitude in this group to Panaria, and is shaped like a gunner's quoin, with steep sides, and tabled surface, tolerably cultivated, though having only three or four houses on it. It lies about three miles east and by north of Panaria, with a rugged rock off its north end, where it is highest. Basiluzzo is about a mile and three quarters in circumference, and produces corn, flax, and vegetables, but has a great enemy in the rabbits that infest it. Besides steps cut to facilitate its otherwise inconvenient access, there are vestiges of ancient buildings, which, in such a place, I at first thought might have been the dwellings of some of those anachorets, who, about the fourth or fifth century, were wont to repair to dreary isles, and practise austere penances; but from the taste of the stucco, and the evident antiquity of the remains, together with the

circumstance of coins and penates having been found there, it is probably the site of Hicesium, if indeed, we admit from Ptolemy and Eustathius, that that was one of the islands; but the Bishop of Lipari, on what authority I know not, assured me that Basiluzzo was once called Heracleotis.

Dattolo is a white steep rock of lava, partly in a state of decomposition, about a mile to the eastward of Panaria, with thirty fathoms' water between them; in this curious mass there are many little cavities, occasioned by the action of the gases, in which the inhabitants of Panaria place their rude, but profitable, bee-hives.

Lisca bianca is a whitish rocky islet, almost four miles from Panaria; and though very small, is partially cultivated, for which purpose it is periodically visited by a farmer. It consists of lava, cinders, and pozzolana, and is separated by a narrow strait from Tilanave, a sterile rock, also called Lisca nera, from its dark appearance, as contrasted with Lisca bianca. In this strait, a strong smell of sulphur is perceptible; and in two places, near the north extremity, are springs of sulphureous gas, the bubbles of which rise in quick and constant succession to the surface, where they have been known to flame, on bursting in the atmospheric air. Wishing to ascertain something respecting this indication, I submerged a thermometer in a bottle, which I found gave 97° of Fahrenheit in twenty-one feet water; but not satisfied with the result, I had a tin tube made for me, by an ingenious mechanic of Messina, with a valve at each end, which as it descended allowed a free passage to the water; but, on being drawn up, closed at both ends by the pressure, and contained a sufficient quantity of water to keep the thermometer to the heat of the depth to which it was lowered. This gave a result of 105° in twenty-two feet water, while at the surface it was 84°, and at a mile distant the temperature of the sea was 76½°, that of the atmosphere at the same time being 71°. This was on the 22d of April, 1815.

Bottaro lies about a mile to the south-west of Tilanave; it is low and rocky, being formed of a decomposition, on which the sulphate of alum is collected in thin crusts.

Panarelli is a nest of black rocks in the channel between Dattolo and Basiluzzo.

The *Formiche*, or Ants, are a still smaller ledge, between Bottaro and the Corvo rock, nearly even with the water's edge.

Lipari.—Lipari, the seat of government and administration, is the largest and richest of the Æolian Islands; being about eighteen miles and a quarter in circumference, with a population amounting to nearly twelve thousand persons.

Previous to the arrival of Liparus, it bore the name of Meligunis, and the foundation of the city is traced back to very remote ages, being supposed to have been in a very flourishing condition when Ulysses visited it, (or at least in Homer's time, by his mention of it,) and its magnificence under the pirates has been highly extolled. Its fate, and its masters, in later ages, have generally been the same as those of Sicily; and the only material circumstance to mark its monotonous history occurred in 1709, when a dispute commenced between the see of Rome and the ecclesiastical tribunal of Sicily, (an office originating from the Papal chair,) arising from the privileges bestowed on Count Roger and his heirs for ever, by Pope Urban the Second. The Bishop of Lipari, by connivance with the Pope, having provoked a quarrel with the magistrates respecting his exemption from taxes, excommunicated them; the Sicilian tribunal, on being appealed to, suspended the sentence, with some severe animadversions on the transaction. On this, the Bishop declared the islands to be under no spiritual interference or responsibility but that of the Apostolic Vicar; and, repairing to Rome, induced the Pope, who was rejoiced at finding a pretext for annihilating an institution he had long been jealous of, to issue circulars to Sicily, asserting his

exclusive right to decide the merits of episcopal censures. The bishops of Catania, Mazzara, and Girgenti, immediately published those letters, but all the other prelates considered it necessary to obtain further authority, and made a remonstrance, by way of explanation, in which the supreme council not only concurred, but also exiled the officious bishops. The irritated Pope pronounced an interdict on their dioceses, excommunicated the judge of the tribunal, abolished that court by a bull, and declared all appeals from his decisions, both past and future, to be null and void. Such an infringement on the privileges of the country, and the monarch, was not to be tamely endured, and, after a severe struggle, in which Victor Amadeus very unexpectedly acted with firmness and vigour, the intrigues and encroachments of the Vatican were totally defeated. The King remained Vicar and Legate, and the tribunal still determines all ecclesiastical appeals, as well as all the quibbles and disputes among the petulant prelates.

There exist various vestiges of the ancient prosperity of Lipari, in fragments of Greek edifices, sculpture, inscriptions, and sepulchres; and coins are continually brought to light. The conoscenti of the island have been greatly perplexed respecting a ruin recently discovered a few feet under ground: it consists of ninety small pillars, on an oblong coarse pavement; they are each formed of twelve or fourteen bricks, and are about two feet high, and one and a half distant from one another. These support a floor of well-made tiles, each nearly three inches thick, and large enough for their angles to rest on part of the tops of four of the small pillars, and are placed so closely as to require no cement; over them there is a black and white marble mosaic, coarsely representing sea-monsters. This part is divided into two rooms, and surrounded by a wall, lined with perpendicular tubes placed close to each other, which are about two feet long, of the same material as the bricks, and communicate with the space below. As this curious edifice is near the site of the temple

of Minerva, my friends, the Abate Trovatini and the Baron Trincola, supposed it was a room in which a Pythia, like that of Delphi, was seated on her tripod to deliver oracles, and that the tubes served to convey the fumes that inspired her with the requisite frenzy; an explanation natural enough for the antiquaries of the spot, but not so amusingly absurd as that pronouncing it to have been a species of Æolian organ. This idea probably arose from the tradition, that "there was a sepulchre in Lipari, which no one dared approach in the night, on account of the dissonant voices, horrible howlings, and untuned instruments, which resounded throughout its vicinity, producing a dreadful clamour." To people not personally interested, however, in the Archæology of the island, it will immediately appear as a vapour-bath belonging to some family of distinction, similar to other ancient baths discovered at the Faro of Messina, and at Catania, and even resembling the modern steam-baths now in use among the Turks and Greeks. A correct model of it was made, which is now in my possession; and as the ruin occupied altogether a considerable space of a fertile vineyard, it was filled up again with the earth.

The capital is healthy, though crowded, irregular, and dirty, with narrow streets, and ruinous public edifices; of which last, the finest are the Capuchin convent of Porto Salvo, the second hospital, the nunnery, and the bishop's palace. One of the best dwelling-houses in the town is under an interdict, from the circumstance of a priest having been put to death therein; it seems that the tonsured ruffian had himself been the aggressor, for in endeavouring to retreat secretly, after he had had illicit intercourse with a woman, he was observed by a young girl, whom he slew to avoid detection, when the enraged husband, arriving at the fatal moment, slew the slayer, and thus became an object of clerical execration.

The castle, which encloses the cathedral and some other edifices, is erected in a commanding situation, on the summit of a huge

mass of volcanic glass, which, I think, the sea once insulated; and though it is now supported on the land side by its subsequent junction to the main island, it has still suffered so much from erosion on the side towards the sea, that it is highly probable some future earthquake or tempest will precipitate the whole vetrified mass, with its buildings, and garrison of invalid veterans, into the sea. From fragments of Cyclopian wall and other remains, I should judge this rock to have been the identical Acropolis, which the Romans, about 259 years B.C., attempted to escalade, but were repulsed and driven back, by the judicious sortie of Hamilcar. The greater part of the present fortress was built by Charles V., after Barbarossa had plundered the town, in the memorable year 1544; when, during the cruel ravages on the shores of Sicily and Italy by that savage chieftain, he carried off such numbers of captives, that they generated an infectious disease in his fleet.

The cathedral is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and is a neat edifice, but the façade has been damaged and rent by lightning: here are preserved two teeth of the tutelary saint, which were taken out of the miraculous tomb, on its being transferred to Rome, to protect it from Saracen arms; this tomb was a marble sarcophagus, containing the sacred remains of St. Bartholomew, which having been thrown overboard at sea, by some unbelievers, found its way to Lipari. A very charitable bishop is also interred here, whose right hand, the priests affirm, still remains sound flesh, in consequence of having so long been the organ of dispensing beneficent donations; his statue, which is well executed in fine marble, represents him in the act of bestowing alms on a poor boy. A college is established here, to which belong eight schools in different parts of the islands.

On the Marina stands the Pratique Office, the scene of many venal transactions; near it is an excellent Grecian statue, which, by the addition of a copper nimbus, has been converted into a saint;

but it is supposed by many to have been in honour of Timasitheus, the generous magistrate, who restored the memorable treasure, captured on its passage to Delphi, consisting of a tenth of the spoils conquered by Camillus, together with a vase full of gold ornaments, contributed by the matrons; he was not only honourably distinguished himself by the Romans, but, when the island came into their possession, one hundred and thirty-seven years after his death, by the defeat of the Carthaginians, his descendants were eagerly sought out, exempted from tribute, and liberally rewarded.

The Bay of Lipari, which, with the city, lies on the east side of the island, is formed on the north by Monte Rosso, an immense bifid mass of volcanic matter of a reddish colour; and on the south by Cape Capistello, a rugged rock of lava; and is nearly two miles in circuit.

Two mountains, the one called St. Angelo, and the other Della Guardia, are the principal features of the island; of these, St. Angelo is nearly a thousand feet high, with slight indications of a crater towards the part called Alta-pecora. The interior of the country forcibly recalls to the memory, the "Agri Liparencis miseri, atque jejuni decimas" of Cicero, for it is singularly rugged and broken, presenting sterile hills of volcanic glass, porphyritic lava, pumice, and other vitrifications; many of which must be more than three thousand years old, and yet exhibit no symptom whatever of decomposition. Between these hills are deep valleys, or rather ravines, worn through the pulverable tufa by the action of heavy rains, and along these the roads lead, often only from five to ten feet wide, between cliffs of a frightful height and aspect. There are also two large but unequal plains; the one to the northward is called Piano Grande, and the other Piano de' Conti, the soil of both is chiefly an argillaceous tufa, mixed with various decompositions; and, as they are well cultivated, they produce fine fruit, cotton, pulse, olives, and other vegetables, besides a three months' supply of corn

for the island; the malmsey wine from these plains is well known all over Europe for its delicious flavour.

Lipari has not suffered from volcanic eruptions for many ages; but its subterranean fires are not yet extinguished, for on digging in the central parts of the island to a trifling depth, heat, smoke, and a sulphureous smell, immediately issue; while hot streams are found in various places. It is literally the wreck of a vast conflagration; and, on the whole, offers the finest field in the world to a lithologist, as every footstep leads to specimens of the most curious productions, of which may be principally instanced, the infinite variety of pumices, the beautiful enamels, the volcanic breccia, the glass, or obsidian of the ancients, and a red porphyritic vitrification, extremely fine, and capable of taking a high polish.

To the northward of Monte Rosso, on leaving the bay of Lipari, is the prettily situated village of Canneto, under the white cliffs of a prodigious mountain of pumice, called Campo Bianco. This mountain is about half a mile in length, and of considerable height; much furrowed by rains, and destitute of verdure, excepting a little samphire, and a few mosses and lichens: the annual exportation of the pumice yields a profitable revenue. At its northern base, rises Cape Castagna, the north-east extreme of the island, and between it and Point Legna-nera, is the bay and village of Acqua-calda. In a healthy situation on Mount Corvo, above the village, is the town of Quattro-pani, where I was surprised to find a very tolerable school, under the guidance of a man of considerable intelligence; for the place itself appears wild, and uncivilized in the extreme. But I was still more surprised, on entering a large house near the church, to see several women harnessed to long poles, turning a mill for grinding corn; they were under the superintendence of a man, who appeared more calculated for such labour, and rendered the sight peculiarly disgusting. This is practised, I afterwards found, all over the island,

and is a relic of Grecian manners; I mean Grecian manners as to the fact of employing females, though not to the harnessing them; and, perhaps, the hand-mills now used by the Arab women, consisting of two flat round stones, one sunk into the other, and turned by a handle, are the most ancient*.

From Legna-nera, a steep cliff extends to the north-west extreme, off which is a high bold rock, called the Torricella, and thence a bight, surrounded by inaccessible cliffs, extends by the Isolated Pyramids to Point Permeta. A few steps, and a winding path, permit a landing at Permeta Tower, which is constructed of the finest lithologic specimens in the island; it stands at the end of the valley de' Molini, where are some ancient caverns, called the "stufe," or stoves, each furnished with a hole at the bottom, through which a humid, oppressive vapour ascends, of the temperature of 143° Fahrenheit. At a little distance from them is a grotto, about fifteen feet deep, and five in diameter, called the Devil's Cave, the last refuge of the prince of darkness, when attacked by St. Calogero, who, however, is stated to have routed him out even from thence, and to have driven him into the crater of Vulcano.

Off this part of the coast, about a quarter of a mile to the westward, is a steep mass of lava, named lo Scoglio del Bagno, or the Bath Rock; and two miles further off shore, is a very dangerous ledge, to which I gave the name of the Bentinck Shoal. It was a singular circumstance, in examining this spot with my tube, to perceive a wreck

* Homer says, in the 20th book of the Odyssey,

"Beneath a pile that close the dome adjoins,
Twelve female slaves, the gift of Ceres grind;
Task'd for the royal board to bolt the bran,
From the pure flour (the growth and strength of man,)
Discharging to the day, the labour due,
Now early to repose the rest withdrew;
One maid, unequal to the task assign'd,
Still turn'd the toilsome mill, with anxious mind."

lying near the rock in about seventeen fathoms' water; she appeared to have been a long time there, and was surrounded by fish: such a sight could not but inspire an affecting sensation, though it is probable from the vicinity of the land, that no lives were lost; but the islanders who were with me were quite ignorant of the date of the disaster.

Between Point Perciata, and that of Vulcanella, a small stream of fresh water trickles down the rocky coast, and near it is the ravine by which the waters from the hot baths run into the sea. The baths are situated at a little distance above the sea-shore, and are named after the redoubtable St. Calogero, from his re-discovering them in the beginning of the sixth century. They are universally acknowledged to be efficacious in various disorders; but yet they remain destitute of conveniences for patients, though a very trifling expense would render the place habitable, as there are already several houses, and two good tanks for rain-water. The springs have a temperature of 136° of Fahrenheit, and contain a slight solution of ammonia and vitriolic salts; and as the waters retain their heat in casks for many hours, it is usual to carry them to the city for the patients; they are said to have the peculiar quality of giving the sick man an immediate agreeable sensation; but I should think a fair trial of their virtues could only be made on the spot.

Passing the bight called Valle di Mura, and the rocks off a perforated point, called the Quails, is the bay of the Praja del Vinco, with a barren bleak shore. On the west side of this bay are two remarkable rocks; one of which, the Pietra Lunga, is a heap of volcanic laminæ in a highly vitrified state, a hundred and fifty feet high, with an aperture at its base, through which boats can row; and at a little distance it appears so like a ship under sail, as to be very frequently mistaken for one: the other is about a quarter of a mile further out, is much lower, and is named La Rocca de' Corvacci, from abounding with a kind of large gull, to which the natives are very partial.

Vulcano.—To the south of Lipari, lies Vulcano, a lofty island, of about fifteen miles in circuit; its possesses two small ports on its northern coast, where Vulcanello is joined by a low rock formed of its own lava. Vulcanello emerged from the sea about one hundred and eighty years, B.C.; and it is on record, that at the time, the sea was boiling, and great quantities of fish were thrown on the shores of the islands, by eating of which, without precaution, a violent epidemic disease was engendered: it has two craters, neither of them large; one is extinct and fast filling up, but from the other, a rumbling noise is sometimes heard, and it frequently emits smoke.

At a small distance from the ports, across a plain of ashes, is the great Vulcanian crater, with a deep valley encircling and detaching it from the neighbouring hills. The ascent is easy, as there is a good firm path, which even an invalid may mount, though on the plain at the summit, the strong sulphureous vapours, the hissing of gases, and the uncertain footing, require some nerve to resist. About half way up is an indentation, where an excavation is carried on for mineral products, and where large quantities of sulphur are gathered in long stalactites; it was too warm for me to penetrate far, as I was thrown into a most profuse and debilitating perspiration in a few seconds; however, I saw enough to make me believe it to be the fallen remains of the beautiful grotto mentioned by Spallanzani.

On gaining the edge of the crater, notwithstanding its facility of access, a more superb and pleasing spectacle presents itself within, than is afforded either by Ætna or Vesuvius, from the magnitude of its dimensions, and the magnificence of the brilliant colours that every where strike the eye. It is an inverted elliptical cone, of about a mile and a quarter in circumference, and nearly a quarter of a mile deep, with the north side considerably higher and hotter than the southern one; while the interior is a volcanic scoria, coated over with sulphur, alum, vitriol, and muriate of ammonia, diverging

into every possible shade of brown, red, green, blue, orange, black, yellow, and white. From the numerous apertures in every part, a sulphureous, hydrogenous vapour, rushes out in gusts, which when collected on the sides, where a considerable quantity of sulphur has already been deposited by sublimation, forms a species of stalactite, covered with boracic, and other light efflorescences. The bottom seems to be about two or three hundred yards in extent, and as the enterprise appeared feasible, I descended, until the footing began to be too hot and apparently insecure to advance any further. Here the frequent explosion of gases, and a continued roar, similar to that of a cataract, or rather of many anchorsmiths' forges, recalled to the imagination the horrors of being separated only by a frail crust from some vast abyss of central fires. An idea, which, though awful and appalling, was not without an accompanying sensation of pleasing gratification, from thus exploring, as it were, the grandest secrets of nature.

I remained at anchor in the western port, for several days, during which time, I frequently heard internal rumblings like distant thunder, and on these occasions, the clouds arose from the crater with greater activity and density; but I never observed any fire, except on visiting it at night, when I perceived a pale lambent flame, issuing from many of the fissures; amongst these I walked without any inconvenience, only that at times a nauseous fume accompanied the vapour. From the strength of the concussions, and the violence of these gusts, the Lipariots pretend to foretell the changes of weather about to occur.

This island might be rendered infinitely more productive than it has hitherto been, and to forward such a design, an eminent chemist of Messina, Signor G. Arrosto, has lately engaged in the works at the foot of the crater, with a view to the exportation of sal ammoniac, alum, and sulphur; the last, indeed, though formerly found in great quantity, had become neglected, and its purification forbidden,

under the impression that the increased smoke and vapour thereby wafted over to Lipari, was injurious to health and vegetation; but this prejudice seems to have subsided.

The mineralogist may here find a rich variety of curious specimens of pumices and salts, and sulphur in all its different states; prismatic lavas also occur, as well as fine red and green vitrifications. It has been observed by native lithologists, that the ancient lavas of this volcano contain many schorls, which is not the case with those of more recent date, from whence they infer an increased heat in the volcanic fires; but I could not ascertain this peculiarity on the spot, notwithstanding my researches to that effect in several parts of the Monte dell' Aria, the highest mountain in the island.

The agricultural experiments, made by the farmers of Lipari, are very successful, and the southern shores yield grapes, flax, barilla, vegetables, pulse, and fruit, and the best corn in the islands, except that of Alicudi. But the interior is only a sterile valley of triturated cinders, separating the crater from Monte dell' Aria, and is much too warm for cultivation, though towards the south side, as the ground rises to the acclivity of the mountain, a slight vegetation of lichens and dwarf shrubs, affords food to several large flocks of goats. Towards the middle of this desolate valley is a spring of fresh water, conveniently furnished with a good stone trough.

From the Sciarra della Posta, along the eastern shore, to Point Sotto Fuoco, the whole presents a precipitous mass of lava, scoriæ, pumice, and ashes, of the most forbidding aspect, and, apparently, condemned to everlasting sterility.

Salina.—Salina lies to the north-west of Lipari, but divided from it by a channel upwards of three miles across, in which a drawn battle was fought between the French and Dutch fleets, in 1676; and this, Admiral de Ruyter said, was the hottest action he had ever been engaged in.

Salina was the ancient Didyme, or twins, so called from the appearance of the two high conic mountains that distinguish it; but, as it possesses several warm springs, it afterwards became known by the name of Thermisia, and remains of the ancient baths still exist on the west side of the island. Although no author mentions the eruptions of Salina, its whole detail evinces a volcanic origin, and there are palpable vestiges of its once desolating craters, the fires of which must have ceased before the dawn of history, and they have now become the most pleasing and fertile spots in the whole group of islands.

Salina is about fourteen miles in circuit, with a population amounting to nearly four thousand inhabitants; of these the men are hardy and laborious, but filthy and ferocious; while the women, equally dirty, are the coarsest and most masculine females I have seen in those parts; and both sexes are universally troubled with the itch, in a greater or less degree of inveteracy. Notwithstanding this, however, and a manner not at all engaging, I experienced great hospitality and kindness during my stay from all classes; and in the good priest of Amalfi, I found a more cultivated mind than I should have expected in so secluded a situation.

The island is divided by the two fine mountains, Malaspina and Felice, between which is a valley extending to the sea, so rich and productive, as to merit its name of Fossa Felice; and here the various trees bear with such exuberant luxuriance, that the natives say, the earth is proud of its vigour. In consequence of this fertility, an excellent revenue is derived from the exportation of grain, fruit, pulse, capers, salt, alum, soda, and wines, of which last the fine Malvasia is unrivalled for its grateful qualities. It is made by leaving the grape to get thoroughly ripe, when the choicest bunches are selected, and exposed for several days on the lava to the solar rays, and carefully turned daily, until a certain portion of the watery part is exhaled, after which they are pressed: a good sweet wine is

also made by boiling ten gallons of must, and mixing it with fifty or sixty of the cold juice.

There are three anchorages, where small vessels resort to load with the produce; each of them is distinguished by a church, surrounded by a number of low flat-roofed houses, scattered irregularly, without any design as to place or streets, although they are denominated towns. That of Santa Marina, beautifully situated on the borders of the happy valley, is the nearest to Lipari, and may be known by its church on the strand, with a large bell suspended to a tree, growing before the door; near it is a pure spring constantly running, and fresh water may be had by digging any where on the beach. Santa Marina was a holy virgin, who, disguised in male attire, was placed by her father in a convent of dissolute friars; her grand feat was citing Satan out of hell, and forcing from him the fatal bond by which Theophilus had made over his soul and body to the arch-deceiver. The devil, in traditional legends, seldom appears to possess much sagacity in his dealings with mankind, being usually bullied or outwitted.

The Lingua Marina is a shingly point at the south-east extreme of alina, with a chapel, and a lunette battery of three embrasures: here is an extensive lake, in which are the salines, whence the island derives its present name; and near it are some remains of Roman reticulated work, consisting of a wall formed of bricks placed diagonally, which is a unique specimen in these islands.

To the westward of the rugged rocks of Punta Spina, which seem to have fallen perpendicularly from the very summit of the mountain, a height of nearly two thousand feet, lies the town, or rather scattered village, of Arrenale; it consists of a church, a magazine, and thirty or forty houses; and from thence one road leads through the central valley to Amalfi, and another to Santa Marina, or Saint Margaret.

The west coast of Salina is abrupt and singular, from its stupendous

overhanging cliffs, between a perforated point and a lofty red rocky cliff, called the Pyramid, lying to the north-west; the hills abound with various game, and form a pleasing amphitheatre, inclosing a fertile, well-cultivated valley. Next to this, is the quarter of Amalfi, a populous district, the heights of which are well-wooded; the town is scattered round the church; and a few houses inside Point Apullara point out the landing-place, and the road from it. The coast between this landing-place and Point Fico, the western extreme of Salina, is called the Spiaggia, or Beach of Amalfi, though mostly broken and rocky, but it is excellent fishing ground.

On Point Apullara there is a chapel and some houses; and, at the landing-place, a few magazines, excavated in the tufa rock. To the north-east of this point I discovered a dangerous shoal, which on the chart I have named Penrose Rocks, from the circumstance of the Commander-in-chief passing about that time in His Majesty's ship Queen, with the King of Naples on board. It is a kind of subaqueous column of lava, on the head of which there are four and a quarter fathoms' water, and a few fathoms from it, fourteen to twenty-seven and thirty. It is covered with marine plants, and much resorted to by fish.

The Pinna Marina, a gigantic kind of muscle, termed by the ancients the Silk-worm of the sea, is found in great abundance at this island, with its curious attendant crab; and gloves are made of the fine hairy substance, called the byssus, or beard. The Romans made imperial robes from the same filaments, and they are supposed also to have been the principal material used in the Egyptian manufacture bearing the name of byssus. The polypus, inhabiting the fragile, but beautiful, shell, called the Paper nautilus, resorts to these coasts in very considerable numbers, and generally during the time that the hawk's-bill turtle are taken.

Felicudi.—To the westward of Salina, and at the distance of ten

or eleven miles, is the island of Felicudi, the ancient Phœnicusa; so named, it is said, from having once abounded with palm trees. It is an extinct volcano, with three high mountains, called Permera, Della Fossa, and Montagnuolo; but, except a spring of hot sulphureous water, there are no remains of the fire that seems to have produced the island, nor does history record any eruption from it.

Felicudi is nine miles in circumference, and is fertile and well cultivated, producing wheat, barley, grapes, olives, pulse, and flax, and a few tolerable oxen are reared on the island. The grounds mostly consist of detached masses of ferruginous and argillaceous lava, strongly marked with white feld-spars and black schorls, and these are intermixed with enamels, cinders, sand, and pozzolana.

The population amounts to about eight hundred souls; they are hardy, industrious, and healthy: and what speaks well for their domestic habits, they are without a peace-officer or a prison, their affairs being regulated and superintended by the curate; who assured me, that even disputes seldom happen. The houses are mean flat-roofed buildings, erected on the sides of the hills; and as there is no fresh water but a little spring, or rather filtering of rain, on the summit of Montagnuolo, nearly two thousand feet above the level of the sea, recourse is had to cisterns for preserving rain-water. The church, with a house on each side of it, for the residence of the priests, is about half way up the hill, and close to an immense dell, called Fossa delli Felci, or Fern Ravine, which is supposed by the islanders to have been the principal crater. The church itself is a small building, but kept in decent order; and the old priest, who had been twenty-five years on the island without quitting it, was quite in raptures, on my pretending to admire a cadaverous portrait of St. Jerome, and a tawdry picture of the flaying of St. Bartholomew, the patron of these isles; in which the executioner is represented with a knife between his teeth, and beating down the skin with his fist, after the manner of a butcher, while the poor martyr

looks as stupid and unconcerned as if nothing disagreeable were transacting. Surely such disgusting subjects as these, exposed to the devotional gaze of a people, to whom other specimens of the arts are unknown, cannot be productive of any good; but is likely rather to inspire a callous feeling.

The south-east point of the island is of a moderate height, and of a conical shape, joined by a low and fertile isthmus, that forms two small bays, the northern of which is called Conca di Lao, and the other Cala di Speranza. From the Conca di Lao, the ascent to the church and the principal houses, is by a steep and intricate, yet not very fatiguing, path; about a third of the way up, there is a rude battery of one gun, the only defence against pirates, though there are vestiges of there having once been a respectable fort; the natives, however, are always on the alert, and, from their agility and courage, would prove a great annoyance to marauders.

The coasts of Felicudi are rugged and broken, and exhibit every where grand masses of basaltiform lava, in irregular three sided prisms. On the western shore, between the Points of Stampaniata and Perciata, is a curious and astonishing grotto, which may well be imagined to have given the idea of the caves of Æolus. I rowed in my boat through a perforation, upwards of sixty feet wide, and thirty high, forming the entrance to a natural colonnade, widening gradually into an extensive hall with spacious arches. This magnificent cavern is about an hundred and sixty feet long, a hundred and twenty broad, and fifty in height, and forms a cool retreat from the solar rays. In one of the recesses we found several seals, which we attacked, but without success.

To the west-north-west of Point Perciata, at the distance of somewhat better than a mile, a slender rock, called the Canna, or Cane, rises from the sea to the height of two hundred and eighty feet: this, at a little distance, from its strong resemblance to a ship before the wind, is generally mistaken for one by strangers.

Off Point Ficarazzi, on the north coast, the highest shore of the island, is a steep black mass of compact prismatic lava; it is called the Fila di Sacca, with deep water close to it, and a passage for small craft between. On the 7th of April, 1814, I had sent my boat to endeavour to shoot a few of the pigeons that frequent it, and was lying off about a couple of miles distant, with a light breeze and hazy weather; when, suddenly, we all felt a shock, as if the vessel was aground; and this was followed by a quick, confused, tremulous motion, like passing over a shoal. The sensation lasted but a few seconds, and I immediately sounded with the deep sea-line, but gained no bottom with a hundred and forty fathoms; whence, as we had made no way, and there was not the slightest indication of shallow water, we concluded it to be the effect of an earthquake: the people on shore, we found, had felt nothing.

Alicudi.—The last and westernmost of the Æolian Islands is Alicudi, anciently called Ericusa, and Ericoide, from its healthiness; but no historian notices its conflagrations. It is about six miles in circumference, and rises at once from the sea, an abrupt conic crater, with irregular ravines, and precipitous hills; and, although its fires have been extinct for many ages, lava is seen in wild and grotesque streams, extending from the summit down to the sea, so harsh and durable, as still to retain the sterile forbidding appearance of a recent eruption.

Notwithstanding this discouraging aspect of desolated nature, Alicudi is cultivated with singular and laborious industry, in every place capable of vegetation; and particularly between all the interstices of the shattered masses, where, by constant exertion, barilla, flax, capers, and pulse, are produced; and wheat so peculiarly fine, that it makes, without exception, the best bread I have ever met with. A small species of locust bean, not unlike the tamarind in the pod, is found here, the decoction of which is said to be efficacious in breaking and dissolving the calculus.

The population consists of about two hundred and sixty sturdy peasants, so healthy, that diseases are almost unknown amongst them; abstinence is their sovereign remedy for illness, and oil their chief nostrum in cases of accident. Visits to this secluded people are so rare, that, on my landing, an aged farmer was anxious to know what could have induced me to visit their uninviting rock; and, in ascending from the beach to the priest's house, near the church, about half way up the mountain, by a very steep and fatiguing path, I received every assistance from nearly a hundred followers, who all took it for granted that none but themselves were inured to such violent exercise: the difficulty of this slippery ascent is the only protection these poor fellows have from corsairs.

The view from the door of the church is very singular, for it is situated so high up, and the side of the island is so steep under it, that it seems like looking from the mast-head of a ship. The priest was a very kind young man, a native of Felicudi, from whence I had brought him a letter of introduction; though I must add, that before I thought of presenting it, his hospitable board was spread with refreshments. He expressed infinite gratitude to our nation for the protection our cruizers had afforded, by preventing pirates from appearing on those seas. He wished, at the same time, to be assured whether the English were Christians; therefore, observing, among the very few books he possessed, an Italian translation of "Young's Night Thoughts," I asked him whether any but a Christian would write a book of that description.

The coasts of Alicudi are rude, craggy precipices, among which are two small and insecure landing-places, of which the one to the south-east, under Point Palomba, is the best; and here the fishermen draw their boats up on a patch of sand: the other is on the north-east side, in a small cove of shingle and scoriaceous stones; but both of them are very difficult of access in fresh winds, so that I was once obliged to return to Felicudi, where I had left my gun-boat, without

being able to get on shore, except at the risk of spoiling my instruments.

Ustica.—About forty miles north and by west of Palermo is Ustica, once known as Osteodes, or the island of bones, from a treacherous act of the Carthaginians, who, returning from an unfortunate expedition, touched here, and turned six thousand mercenary troops on shore, that had become clamorous for arrears, and abandoned them to the horrible fate of inevitable starvation. Ptolemy mentions a Roman town having afterwards stood here; and a corroboration of this exists near the Cala Santa Maria, as there are many vestiges of dwellings and tesselated pavements; besides these, there are numerous ranges of sepulchres in several parts of the island, in which amphoræ, lamps, and medals are found: one coin, which I procured, had a palm-branch on it, as engraved on the plan of Ustica, in my Atlas.

The port, or cove, of Santa Maria is situated to the south-east, and is sufficiently large for the trading feluccas that resort there. The modern town, which was only settled in 1761, is immediately above the sandy beach at the head of the cove; and on its east is a hill called Falconara, with a fort and prison on its summit, garrisoned by a company of invalids and a few militia of the island. Besides Fort Falconara, there is a stout tower of three guns on the western side of the cove, and a battery of two more near the beach. In addition to these defences, the west point of Ustica, the only good landing-place, is protected by a strong tower, called the Spalmadora; and the rest of its nearly inaccessible coast is surrounded by stout guard-houses, within hail of each other, with roads of communication between; so that on the whole it may be deemed tolerably well fortified.

The town of Santa Maria is large in proportion to the population, and has clean regular streets, and a square in the centre; on the north side of which a tolerable church, an hospital, a school, and a

Monte di Pietà, are established, and the whole jurisdiction appears to be highly respectable. The inhabitants amount to seventeen hundred, exclusive of the garrison and the prisoners: and they are cleanly, healthy, and more civilized than their neighbours: owing, perhaps, partly to the facility of intercourse with the capital, as a weekly packet sails for Palermo.

The Ustica of the seventeenth ode of Horace is pronounced by many to have been an allusion to his Sabine Villa; nor is this island the "Ustica cubantis" that he elsewhere makes it; as a tolerably high mountain trends through the central part with three summits: the western of which is called the Turk's Head; the middle (near the vestiges of a dilapidated crater), Monte Mezzo; and the eastern one, Punta Cavaliere. The whole is highly cultivated, except a portion left for the growth of the lestincu, a shrub on which the goats browse, and that also supplies the necessary quantity of fuel for the ovens. Charcoal and fire-wood, consisting chiefly of olive roots, for culinary purposes, are brought from Cefalù and Palermo.

Ustica is entirely composed of volcanic substances, derived apparently from a common horn-stone base; and in the lavas are found schorls, feldspars, and chrysolites, similar to those of Alicudi. The soil is an aggregate of decomposed scoriæ, tufa, sand, and ashes, and extremely fertile; but, on account of its friable tendency, is liable to be washed away in heavy rains, particularly on the sides of the hills. From the very absorbing nature of such materials, there are no springs; rain-water is therefore collected in capacious cisterns; but, as they contain only a sufficient supply for the inhabitants and their few cattle, none can be spared for agriculture, which, nevertheless, by the humectation of the dews, thrives abundantly, and every species of fruit-tree bears in exuberance. Some banks in the vicinity of this island afford fish, and a quantity of excellent high-coloured coral.

In some parts of the coast there are spacious grottoes, with deep

water in them, of which one on the east-side has a singular stalagmitic incrustation of shells, intermixed with lava; and another, near it, with a very low entrance, is so roomy inside as to form a retreat for the fishermen, on the approach of Barbary cruisers. About half a mile from the steep, cliffy cove of the Passo di Madonna, is a large singular rock of lava in the sea, called the Medico, with deep water all round.

Pantellaria.—South of Maritimo, at the distance of seventy-two miles, is the Island of Pantellaria, which is generally supposed to have been the ancient Cossyra, in the orthography of which I am regulated by its coins. Although the Phœnicians and Carthaginians might have resorted thither occasionally, it does not appear to have been regularly settled by them; the few tombs found, the coarse fragments of amphoræ, and most of the coins, being evidently of the lower empire, or Saracenic. In the times of Ovid and Seneca, it is mentioned as having a sterile, cheerless aspect.

Pantellaria has usually shared in the fortunes of Sicily, and, on the expulsion of the Saracens by Count Roger, formed, for a long time, part of the Queen's dowry; subsequently, it passed into several private families, until at length, in 1492, it was settled, with the title of Prince, in that of Requiseno. In 1583, the celebrated corsair, Dragut, made a descent on it, sacked the castle, and carried a thousand of the inhabitants into slavery; since which, except occasional predatory attacks from Barbary vessels, its history possesses no conspicuous feature.

This island is about thirty miles in circumference, and is entirely volcanic, as is evident from the vestiges of craters, the prodigious quantity of lava, pumice, scoriæ, and pozzolana, and the existence of numerous hot springs, vapour stoves, and grottoes, formed by corrosion. Several of the latter, from the prismatic form of the columnar masses, have a singular appearance, not unlike Gothic arcades.

The base of the lava is porphyry and horn-stone, with crystals of white feldspar; and many of the vitrifications strongly resemble the obsidian of Lipari. The pumices are plentiful, and might be worked to advantage as an article of commerce, as well as the pozzolana, both being of an excellent quality, and well situated for easy embarkation. The interior is divided into broken hills, covered with brushwood; and ravines and valleys, tolerably cultivated with vines, cotton, and vegetables. A considerable quantity of orchilla is also gathered, which, when fermented with urine, produces a fine violet colour for dyeing; besides which, the shores afford the fucus tinctorius in abundance. The fruits are fine, and the raisins especially, are some of the best and cheapest in the Mediterranean; but there is not more corn produced than sufficient for the consumption of three months; consequently, they depend on Sicily for a supply. The highest mountain is nearly in the centre of the island, and is clothed on its southern side with a wood of fine trees, principally chestnut and oak, well adapted for the construction of vessels, but the means of conveyance are extremely difficult; lower down the olive-tree flourishes very luxuriantly. I was told by some person, that on this mountain are the remains of a crater, converted into a lake of fresh water; the evidence, however, was very contradictory as to its extent, and I was unable to visit the spot myself at the time; but I hope to ascertain the fact previous to my quitting the Mediterranean station.

The town and castle are at the head of a cove, on the north-west point of the island; it was anciently known by the name of Oppidulum, but was called Sciaxigibur by the Saracens. It is a large, but poor, place, of a miserable aspect, and loaded, rather than decorated, with a huge parish church, several chapels, and a capuchin establishment. The population amounts to about four thousand six hundred souls, of whom, the greater part are natives; they may be accounted tolerably industrious, though of very lax morality; but the rest are either men who have fled from the offended laws of Sicily, or cri-

minals suffering under their sentence. The castle is a large, but a weak, work, with a square keep, mounting ten or twelve old guns, and garrisoned by a party of veterans, under a military commandant. The port is further protected by a battery of two guns on Point St. Leonard, and another, similar in size and strength, on Point Sta. Croce; the powder magazine, for the whole, is situated nearly on the summit of the hill at the back of the town, where it was placed to prevent the disasters incident on a sudden explosion.

The harbour is very convenient for their small vessels, which are principally employed in the exportation of wine, oil, cotton, orchilla, raisins, and a little alum. The asses of Pantellaria are esteemed a very excellent breed.

From the town, a sterile rocky shore extends along the north coast to the Cala di cinque denti, at the back of which is a salt, tepid lake, about a mile in circuit, with several hot springs near it; and close, to point Serafina, is a creek, with several more of them, which, from holding soda in solution, are of a saponaceous quality, and therefore useful in bleaching linen. The north coast is terminated by the two bays, called Cala Tramontana and Cala Levante, both extremely picturesque, and separated by an isthmus point, off which lies, as usual in the Æolian Islands, a high rocky islet, with a deep channel between. The east and south coasts consist of steep and inaccessible cliffs, with basaltic caves at the base, much frequented by wild pigeons, and especially at the high conical rock off point Finestra, so called from an aperture, at a considerable height above the water, resembling a window.

Near Sataria point are some grottoes called the Stufe, or Stoves, in the efficacy of which, for the cure of various disorders, the natives have implicit faith. In these singular recesses, I found myself in a profuse perspiration, without experiencing the usual languor such places occasion, and, if I required them, should certainly prefer the use of these stoves to any that I have visited; but I rather think they

are too far removed from all the allurements of fashion for the generality of English invalids, who so reluctantly relinquish the very habits that have shaken their constitutions. The smoke is agitated by a strong current of air, and the vapour condenses itself in the vaults, forming several streamlets, the water of which is not unpleasant to the taste. From another cave, there rushes out a stream of air so cold, that the natives pretend it has sufficient power to ice water, that is exposed for some time to its influence.

Linosa.—About sixty-seven miles, south-east half south from Pantellaria, lies the uninhabited island of Linosa, which, with Lampedusa and Lampion, constituted the ancient Pelagie, while its particular name was Algusa. It is about six miles in circuit, and entirely volcanic, with an extinct crater on its eastern side, and three smaller, but not less marked, in other parts. The fires of them must have been very intense, as pumices, and the most perfect and obdurate vitrifications, occur amongst the lavas. There are three hilly ranges, with good valleys between them, covered with a spontaneous and varied vegetation, evincing, by a rich luxuriance of growth, the capability of the soil. On the western point is a small creek, under a steep cliff of pozzolana, formed by the falling in of one side of a crater, where boats can very conveniently land on a beach of fine triturated sand. The channel from Pantellaria to Linosa, from thence to Malta, and also to Lampedusa, is without bottom at three hundred fathoms of line; a circumstance that sufficiently proves the insulated origin of the volcano that, in the earliest ages, must have formed this island.

On my first visit to Linosa, I could not perceive the slightest indication of any quadruped having been there; the only living creatures being a number of hawks. I, therefore, on a subsequent visit, put some goats and rabbits on shore, and sowed some beans and pease, and several grasses; I also scattered wheat and barley in all directions, and sowed tobacco, and the recinus palma Christi, on the sides

of the crater and adjacent hills: when I was last there, my gardens had been sadly injured by the burrowing of the rabbits, but I had the satisfaction to find that the colony had increased prodigiously.

During the severe contests between the Turks and the Knights of Malta, the Ottoman commanders had an anxious desire to establish a post on this island; but, says the exulting historian, "every attempt proved fruitless, nor could they ever boast any other victory than that of a confused and disgraceful retreat."

LAMPEDUSA.—At the distance of twenty-four miles, south-west by south from Linosa, lies Lampedusa, a long narrow island, stretching east and west, and known to the ancients as Lopadusa. It is thirteen miles and a half in circuit, with a level surface, but abrupt, craggy coasts, except to the south-east, where it shelves from a height of nearly four hundred feet to a low shore, indented, or rather serrated, with many coves; of which the largest is called the harbour, and deserves attention, as it was intended, at the time Buonaparte disputed our demand of retaining Malta, that this place, however unworthy, might be substituted for the valuable ports of Valette.

Lampedusa is a dependency of Sicily, and was given by Alphonso to his valet Di Caro, with permission to build a tower under baronial jurisdiction; but it was never inhabited, on account, it is gravely said, of the horrible spectres that haunted it. In 1667, it was acquired, with the title of Prince, by the learned Ferdinand Tommasi of Palermo, a grandee of Spain, in whose family it has ever since remained. There are vestiges of ancient habitations. In 1610, a barbarous inscription was found among the ruins of Orlando's tower, now called the castle.

A Sicilian legend states, that a vessel was wrecked on this island, and that the only survivors were two Palermitan ladies, Rosina and Clelia. They here found two hermits, Sinibald and Guido, who, renouncing their ascetic life, married them; a population, of course,

was the consequence, and the ruins near the castle are adduced as vestiges of its respectability. But, except a solitary anchoret or two, and a few occasional stragglers, it does not authentically appear to have been regularly inhabited, in modern times, until about ten or twelve years ago, when Mr. Fernandez, an English gentleman, struck with its advantageous situation, for the establishment of a fishery, for rearing cattle and refreshments for Malta, and for opening a commercial intercourse with Barbary, purchased a lease of it. The change of public affairs by the general peace, with litigations, and several other causes, unnecessary to relate here, have, however, ruined the speculation; and when I last visited the island, I found the family of Mr. Fernandez living in almost deserted solitude, in a house near the great grotto, without the slightest protection from rovers, or, what is worse, from infected vessels putting in there, which has ever been a common practice. Twelve or fourteen Maltese peasants were scattered about in the different caves, near the cultivated parts.

From the harbour, a stout wall, erected at the expense of Mr. Fernandez, runs over, in a north-west direction, to the opposite coast, entirely separating the broadest part of the eastern end, which is under cultivation, from the rest of the island. The western parts are covered with dwarf olives, and a great variety of plants, so that a good deal of fire-wood is cut and sent to Tripoli and Malta; and amongst this profusion there are plenty of wild goats, that used to annoy the farm considerably, until the erection of the above-mentioned wall: they still find a destructive enemy, however, in the Numidian crane, called, from its graceful gait, the Damsel; these birds arrive in great numbers in May, and delight to revel among the legumes, always planting a sentinel to warn them of discovery during their ravages.

From the south side a bank extends several leagues, and affords good anchorage under shelter of the island. On this bank, the cele-

brated Andrew Doria anchored the fleet of Charles the Fifth, after having had an engagement with the Turks, that was followed by a furious gale, in which some of the ships, in coming in, were driven against the cliffs between Cape Ponente and Rabbit Island: those that, repairing to the east side of the island, anchored in the Cala Piscina Bay, fared best. Here too, this indefatigable commander contrived to water the vessels, and repair their damages.

At a little distance from the Cala Croce, up a ravine, in some degree picturesque, is the residence of a celebrated recluse; and the grotto is divided, partly into a Catholic chapel, and partly into a Mahometan mosque. This being at about twenty minutes' walk from the harbour, the old gentleman had always sufficient time to reconnoitre vessels that anchored, and according to the flag displayed, lighted up for the cross, or the crescent; whence the proverb of "the hermit of Lampedusa." The Turks, even when by death or accident, they found no inhabitant, always left a present behind them, under the idea, that without such a form, they would be unable to quit the place; but Coronelli shall himself relate this instance of superstition: "Even writers worthy of confidence assert, that no one can reside in this island, on account of the phantasms, spectres, and horrible visions, that appear in the night; repose and quiet being banished by the formidable apparitions and frightful dreams that fatally afflict with death-like terrors, whoever does remain there as much as one night. The Turks are governed by a ridiculous superstitious idea, which is, that no one would be able to go out of the island, who did not leave something there, or who had the hardihood to take away the merest trifle. But the pure faith of the Knights of Malta is not so light and vain, for they annually go thither with their galleys, and, collecting the offerings made to the fore-mentioned church, take them over to Malta, and there apply them to the support of the Hospital for the Infirm."

I had observed such numbers of Troglodytic caves, that I was

anxious to explore some of them; and when I was examining the eastern bay of the harbour, I was just entering a small grotto at the place marked on the plan in the atlas, when I was startled by seeing indented in deep characters the following warning:

QUI RITROVASI CADAVERE
MORTO DI PESTE IN GIUGNO, 1784.

In a book that was published soon after that year, under the title of "Narrative of a Ten Years' Residence at Tripoli in Africa," I found the following passage in point; it is contained in the letter of August the 7th, 1784; and from which it appears that some straggling inhabitants had been some time on the island, though the number cannot be ascertained by the fair writer's recital. "A deplorable French vessel, with the plague on board, lays in the harbour. She has been driven about at sea for a long time, and being refused entrance at Malta, and several other ports, she went to Lampedoza, an island between Malta and Susa, where some friars and a few happy people had lived in a state of calmness for many years, in the cultivation and enjoyment of the produce of the island, and hardly holding converse with the rest of mankind. Here the captain attempted to air his cargo; but as the opening of it proved instant death to those who did it, he was obliged to desist. During the seven days he remained there, the superior of the convent, and nearly all the inhabitants of this little island, died; and two Tripolitan corsairs, who had put in there for water, were burnt. He is arrived here with the same cargo, which consists of bales of cotton. There are a great many Turks on board, who offer to shave themselves, and swim on shore: the rest of the crew are constantly applying round the harbour for leave to land and burn the vessel, which the Moors have not yet agreed to."

In the same work, I was much amused in observing youthful traits of many of my acquaintances in Tripoli, who are at present venerable sages. Sidi Useph, whose early violence and ambition are

depicted with admirable truth, has become an affectionate father, and a popular sovereign;—and Sidi Mahmoud, the hero of that very interesting tale related in the letter of December the 20th, 1792, is still alive, and mentions "Emma" with a kind recollection; he had not heard of her for many years when I informed him of her death. Sidi Mahomet, his son by the tender Selima, accompanied me on a journey from Tripoli to Ghirza, in quest of the petrified city; and on our return, Sidi Mahmoud, at a little entertainment he gave to Colonel Warrington's son and myself, in his garden, recounted to us many anecdotes of that beautiful, but eccentric, woman: he also pleasantly related the imputation his veracity incurred, on his return from the embassy, by telling his friends of his having seen Lunardi ascend in an air balloon, from the palace of Portici, where he had been invited by the king of Naples.

Lampion.—West and by north half north, seven or eight miles from Lampedusa, is a steep tabled rock, known to ancient geographers as the *Scola* of the *Pelagie;* it is now called Lampion. This islet is not above eight hundred yards in length from north to south, by about two hundred in breadth, and divided by a deep channel from all adjacent lands; the surface is so flat that, on making it from the north-west, it looks like a mere wall; and yet it is remarkable, that on its summit there are several vestiges of buildings, of an evidently ancient date, occupying a space of nearly sixty feet, of which one part had a roof, supported by an arch of good construction, which remains: the sides and bottom are covered with an excellent cement, well coloured; and in another part there are fragments of a tesselated pavement, composed of irregular cubes of coarse marble.

CONCLUSION.

HAVING now concluded the description of the Coast of Sicily, and the whole of its dependencies, I beg to remind those who may be disappointed at not meeting the usual relation of a tourist, in detailed accounts of his diurnal entertainment, and anecdotes of hosts and servants, that my object has been to write a memoir only, which must necessarily be somewhat monotonous to the reader, as well as fatiguing to the writer. I might, indeed, by recounting personal occurrences, and other matter, have easily filled a much larger volume; but I have principally kept in view, what, I considered, might be useful or interesting to officers on that station, as an accompaniment to the charts and plans. I trust that, in judging of this work, due allowance will be made for those constantly recurring interruptions I have endured, which are unavoidable in carrying on the duties of a man-of-war.

At the same time, I should not render justice to my feelings, were I not to indulge in publicly acknowledging the very liberal patronage with which Lord Melville and the Board of Admiralty have constantly cheered my exertions, during an arduous and laborious undertaking. And, in this grateful office, I must also notice the kind countenance afforded me by his Majesty the King of Sicily, His Royal Highness the Hereditary Prince, and their ministers. The late Prince of Butera, Count Buscemi, Prince Belmonte, the Prince of Carini, and Marshal Naselli, were also remarkably obliging both in their public and private attentions.

Lieutenant-General Lord William Bentinck, Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Penrose, Admiral Lord Exmouth, and Lieutenant-General

Sir Thomas Maitland, have successively honoured me with every kindness and facility that could be afforded in their respective commands; and had it not been for such powerful aids, it would have been nearly impracticable to have completed the survey.

To the welcome assistance and friendly counsel of the worthy Abbate Piazzi, astronomer royal at Palermo, I am under the greatest obligations; and an intimate acquaintance, now of some years standing, has, I trust, proved to him the value I place on his friendship. His assistant, Signor Cacciatore, was indefatigable in meeting my wishes at the observatory. The Chevalier Landolina, and the Professors Scinà and Ferrara, evinced great interest in my lithologic and antiquarian inquiries; but, indeed, the Sicilians, of all ranks and pursuits, merit my most lively acknowledgments for their hospitality and earnest endeavours to promote my various objects.

Captain Hurd, the hydrographer; Colonel Robinson, of the combined flotilla; Captain Henryson, of the Royal Engineers; and Captain Thompson, of the Royal Staff Corps; have also a large demand on my gratitude, for the personal friendship they have so strongly manifested in the willing assistance constantly rendered me.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ADDITIONAL HYDROGRAPHICAL REMARKS ON THE COASTS AND HARBOURS.

CHAPTER I.

Detail of the North Coast of Sicily, Carini, Palermo, Termini, Cefalù, Caronia, Patti, Port Madonna, Millazzo, and Spadafora.

LARGE ships, approaching Cape St. Vito, ought to give it a birth of at least three miles, on account of a shoal to the northward, between which and the land there is an inner channel of seven or eight fathoms; coming from the westward, when the Agra tower begins to touch Mount Cofano (a rugged conic rock to the southward of it), it points out the vicinity of the shoal, on which are from three and a half to six fathoms' water, with from twelve to thirty and fifty outside, and in heavy gales the sea breaks all over it.

Inside the point of Sireno, which has a shelf tailing off it, stands the profitable fishery of S. Biro; and between it and Cape Rama, is a spacious bay, called the Gulf of Castell' a mare, having deep water and good anchorage along its shores; but unsafe in winter, on account of its exposure to northerly winds, which send in a heavy swell and mostly blow home.

CAPE ORSA.—From Castell' a mare, by Magazinazzi and Sciarra, the coast is low, and the beach sandy, which contrasts with the opposite side; the east extreme of the gulf is terminated by a long tabled cliff, called Cape Rama, inside which is a cone, where the two small, but decent, towns of Favorotta and Cernisi stand, at the base of a mountain, that, from being seen far at sea, is usually named Cape Orsa. Vessels arriving in summer, to load the manna, carubba, and other produce of the plain, lie off the low white cliffs of Favorotta, but not far from the sandy beach, in from five to nine fathoms; towards the east side of the bay, the water shoals: consequently, in standing in, Point Molinazzo must have a wide birth.

CARINI.—To the eastward of this cove, the coast runs low and shelving, by the Points Uomo Morto and Orsa, each of which are defended by good towers. At the latter is a large fishery, from whence commences the Bay of Carini, where there is anchorage against southerly winds, but the water is shallow towards the shores.

There is a passage between Femina Island and the coast, through which small boats may pass, and the other parts are bold to, though I was informed by a Trapanese pilot of a rock at a small distance off, with only two fathoms' water on it; this I searched for in every direction, for two days, without success, and the fishermen of the spot being utterly ignorant of its existence, I conclude my informant must have been mistaken.

Gulf of Palermo.—Cape di Gallo is a rugged cliff, with brownish red patches, appearing from the offing like an island; and, on rounding it, a high conic rock is seen to the eastward, at about four leagues' distance: this is Cape Zaffarana, and between the two lies the Gulf of Palermo, about five miles deep, and quite clear of danger.

On sailing in, a ship may proceed boldly towards the anchorage, only observing to be guarded on passing the little sandy bay of Mondello, on account of the violent and squally gusts of wind, that rush between Mount Pellegrino and Cape di Gallo, especially in winter; it is therefore advisable, on standing along the west side of the bay during a fresh breeze, to station hands by the sheets and haulyards, and be ready to keep large. On Mount Pellegrino are two signal-towers.

Palermo is in the S.W. part of the bay, and, in an angular direction off the mole and the city, in from sixteen to twenty-five fathoms, is the best anchorage for a temporary stay, as well as for those who do not desire to go into the mole. Ships should moor with the small bower to the N.W., and the best to the S.S.E., keeping an open hawse to the N.E., and, if blowing from the seaward in winter, ought to ride with a cable and a half on each bower; should the gale increase, strike lower yards and topmasts, let go the sheet-anchor under foot, and bend the spare cable, as precautions for the worst weather. But though a heavy sea sends in, it never rolls home, and I do not believe there is the slightest danger, having myself rode out several severe gales.

Chain-cables are to be preferred for a certain spell, because a long range is like backing the bowers, and as several anchors have been lost, they may cut the hempen cables. If a ship parts in N.E. winds, she must inevitably go on shore on the reef under the citadel, for the long swell that sets in from that quarter, renders all exertions to clear it useless.

The birth I would recommend is with the following bearings:

Summit of Mount Pellegrino	N.N.W.	Nineteen fathoms, stiff clay, about half a mile off shore.
Mole Light-house	N.W.$\frac{3}{4}$W.	
Monreale city, over Palermo	W.S.W.	
Flora Gardens	South	
Torre de' Corsari	S.byE.$\frac{1}{2}$E.	
Point Gerbino	E.byS.$\frac{1}{4}$S.	

The Mole forms a convenient port, capable of containing a great number of vessels.

The inner port is reserved for the use of the arsenal, having large magazines for naval stores, and prisons for the galley slaves. Ships on entering brush the Mole-head, and on passing lay out the best bower to the S.W., and haul the stern close to the pier, for the winds that rush through the valley of the Conca d'Oro are often troublesome. The central part of this space is very rocky and shallow.

Besides this port, there is a small cove before the town, called Cala Felice, where small craft repair; and in summer vessels of two hundred tons can lie securely; but the sea winds occasion a disagreeable ground swell. Water is procured at the quay, by filling the casks with hoses that lead into the boats.

Anchorage is afforded near the shore, all over the Bay of Palermo; but it must be noticed, that there is a large patch of foul ground, on which the sea breaks heavily in the offing winds, running out from the citadel, or Cala Felice, into the Mole harbour. There is also a small foul spot nearly opposite the central part of the Marina, carrying eleven fathoms' water, and deepening suddenly to eighteen and twenty, where I have known several anchors to be lost. The marks for it are: A high church over the Anjou Palace in one with the ruins of the Moorish fort of Castellaccio, on the hill above Monreale; and the thwart in a line between the light-house and the Torre de' Corsari.

Bay of Solanto.—Cape Zaffarana appears from seaward like an island, being of a conical form, and considerable height, with a large rock off its base, and a passage of four fathoms' depth between them; the approach is steep, carrying from fifteen to twenty fathoms pretty close in. Inside the Cape, a large bight, extending to the town of Mandero, under Milicia, is called the Bay of Solanto, where ships, unable to fetch into the Gulf of Palermo during a westerly gale, can choose good anchorage, taking care to avoid the Solanto Reefs, in going in; these consist of two ledges of rocks, even with the surface of the water, with forty fathoms round them, at a short offing distance, and twenty-seven in the channel between them and the coast, and bearing, from Cape Zaffarana, S.E.byE., distant two miles and a quarter; a column and flag-staff were erected on them, by command of his present Majesty, but they are now, by some accident, broken off.

Solanto, from which the above danger is named, is a castle and "tonnara," or tunny fishery, belonging to the King. From thence to Termini, the coast has but little variation, only that at the tonnara of Trabia a shoal tails off nearly half a mile, otherwise a vessel may stand boldly in by the lead.

Termini.—Termini is a "caricatore," or place endowed with immunity for exporting the produce of the country, but the anchorage being exposed during two-thirds of the year, it can only be frequented by boats that can be drawn up on the beach.

Cefalù.—This is a small sandy bay, where coasters find summer anchorage, with from

three to seven fathoms, and there is a small pier for the reception of fishing vessels, to the N.W. of which, at a very trifling distance, are two shoals, with eight and nine feet water on them.

Inside Cefalù, to the east, is a small cove, called Calura, where coasters sometimes seek shelter, under the protection of a tower on the point. "Malo Portuso," or Bad Hole, may be known from the offing by a high mount to the east of it, on the summit of which stands the castle of Pollina.

The coast then trends, with but little variation in its feature, by the towns of Tusa and St. Stefano, the approaches to which from the sea are quite free from danger, and may be regulated by the lead. The numerous products of the vicinity are shipped here in summer, in vessels called Bovi and Paranzelle.

Caronìa.—Inside the "Fondaco" (a kind of inn, or rather stable,) are several rocks, above water, called "i Sorci," the Mice, and a little to the eastward of them some others, named the Rats; but destitute of any danger, being close in-shore, with a regular approach, carrying twenty fathoms, within a quarter of a mile of the beach, in a bottom of clay and sand, and this continues nearly to Cape Orlando.

Cape Orlando.—This is a steep promontory, of moderate height, off which, a little to the westward, is a ledge of rocks, just above water, where a Turkish vessel and a French privateer were lost a few years ago. Between the reef and the beach is good anchorage for small craft, opposite the large fondaco. This place is remarkable for sudden squalls and heavy swells.

Rounding the Cape, to the eastward, are two small projecting rocks, jutting out like moles, where the small country boats sometimes lie; and in the bight further on, stands the village of S. Gregorio, a "caricatore" for timber, with an anchorage against westerly winds, and tolerably protected from all but the northerly ones.

Brolo.—To the northward of the ruinous castle of Brolo, nearly three-quarters of a mile distant, is a rock, sixteen or seventeen yards in circumference, and twenty feet above the level of the water, with an intermediate channel, carrying nine fathoms' water, but it is a passage that should not be used without necessity, as there is a reef on a wash, bearing W.S.W. from the large rock, and about half-way to the shore. Here I have found good riding, even in winter, although it is exposed from N.W. to N.E.; yet the most troublesome winds are those from the southward, as they blow with great violence by the height, on which stands the town of Piraino.

Bay of Patti.—Between the bluff points of Calava and Tyndaris, is the Bay of Patti, a place perfectly safe, by attending to the lead, as it is deep, with regular soundings,

and a good bottom of sand and clay, only observing, that near the centre is there a large rock above water, with two smaller ones near it; but as they are distinguishable at some distance, they are not dangerous. The channel between them and the beach is perfectly safe, and affords summer anchorage; it is necessary, however, to sight the anchors every third or fourth day, as the sand is apt to bank, particularly after a breeze.

Port Madonna.—Point Tyndaris is bold, and easily distinguishable from afar, by the monastery on its highest summit. On the east side is a curious little anchorage, called Port Madonna, where small vessels find secure shelter against all winds; the circumference is not above half a mile, and its depth is fourteen feet in the middle; and this is all that remains of the ancient harbour. A sand-bank extends from it to nearly half a mile in the offing, which ships bound into the bay must avoid by giving it a wide birth, steering well to the eastward, and bringing the castle of Scalaproto to bear S.S.W., before standing to the southward.

Olivieri Bay.—The Bay of Olivieri affords excellent anchorage, in from eight to thirty fathoms, for vessels of every description, and may be advantageously resorted to, while on the passage to the westward, and obliged to bear up from the heavy gales of winter, as it can always be fetched, when from the length of the Promontory of Milazzo (exclusive of its being so much further to leeward), ships on rounding the point, are unable to fetch the proper birth, and have, in consequence, often been under the necessity of keeping away for the Faro of Messina. This bay also possesses the advantages over Milazzo, of being in some degree sheltered by the Æolian Islands, and the shoal of the Madonna, from the strong northerly sea; provisions are in greater plenty, and the Point of Tyndaris is sooner cleared on quitting the anchorage; one drawback alone remaining in the very unhealthy atmosphere it is afflicted with, during several months of the year. The birth I would recommend would be, to moor W.N.W. and E.S.E., with open hawse to the northerly wind and sea, in the following bearings:

Point Tyndaris	N.W.byW.	Fifteen fathoms, stiff clay, off shore about a quarter of a mile.
Convent over Port Madonna	N.W.byW.	
Baron's Castle	S.W.	
Falcone Village	S.S.E.$\frac{1}{4}$E.	
Milazzo Light-house	N.E.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	

Milazzo Bay.—From Olivieri a sandy beach extends along a fertile plain, studded with the towns of Furnari, Barcelona, Pozzo di Gotto, and many villages, as far as the Promontory of Milazzo, which is bold to, except on the N.W., where are some steep rocks above water, called the Porcelli. On the north extreme is a miserable little light-house,

rounding which a ship may stand close down the eastern side, noticing only that a shoal, with three fathoms on it, lies just off Point Presso, and that anchorage is afforded, if necessary, in Paradiso Bay, in ten to fourteen fathoms, sand, which depth is to be preferred to lying nearer in towards the beach, as the cables are liable to thresh in easterly winds.

Strangers passing Milazzo light-house, and bound to Messina, in thick or blowing weather, may be mistaken with respect to the entrance of the Faro Channel, as there is more the appearance of a strait inside Cape Vaticano, than at the actual opening, and the error has proved fatal to many vessels, as it forms the most dangerous lee-shore in the Mediterranean sea. In the Atlas is a particular view to direct the navigator, for there are two tabled tongues of land resembling each other, to the southward of the bight of Vaticano, and it is between the two that the entrance of the Faro of Messina will be found.

Milazzo Bay is spacious and deep, with a firm bottom of mud and blue clay, in deep water, and sand near the shores; it is little affected by tides, but the anchorage is greatly injured by the custom of leaving the large stones with which the tunny nets are secured, and the evil increases annually.

The Pratique Office is under Fort St. Elmo, and the watering-place bears, from the shipping, about S.byE., on a fine sandy beach, where, as the stream separates into several brooks, it is convenient for many boats at a time; and the quickest method of filling is by handing buckets.

Anchorage.—The most eligible birth is off the lower town, and a ship should moor with her best bower to the southward, remembering to weigh the anchors at intervals, if remaining long there; for the bottom is so adhesive, that if they sink deep, it requires the most powerful efforts to purchase them. The following are the bearings I should choose:

The Beacon Rock	N.N.E.	Twenty-five fathoms, stiff mud, off shore about a quarter of a mile.
The Castle	N.byW.$\frac{1}{2}$W.	
Fort St. Elmo	W.$\frac{1}{2}$S.	
S. Giovanni Tonnara	S.S.W.	
Mount Antennamare	E.byS.$\frac{3}{4}$S.	
Cape Rasaculmo	E.byN.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	

Gulf of Milazzo.—Between Milazzo and Cape Rasaculmo is a deep sandy gulf, with several large fiumaras running into it. At about six miles to the eastward of Milazzo, there is good anchorage, for all sized vessels, keeping an eye to the sea-winds in winter, in from eight to twenty-five fathoms, sand and mud; but the best place to drop an anchor is in fifteen, nearly opposite the Baronial Palace, and about three-quarters of a mile off shore.

Cape Rasaculmo.—This a fertile tabled point, of moderate height, with several sand-hills under it, and some low rocks, called Pietre del Raïs, at its base. On the outer point stand the remains of a stout Saracenic tower, and near it a turret, with a telegraph.

Acqua Ladrone.—Inside the Cape, at the distance of about two miles to the eastward, the fiumara and fishing village of Acqua Ladrone, with a high mound of white sand on its east side, whence it has obtained the name of Arena-bianca among seamen. The anchorage off this spot is excellent, there being from twelve to twenty fathoms, fine stiff mud; and the way to bring to, is to stand in until the Faro beach touches the south end of the town of Scylla, and the lighthouse on the Faro Point bears S.E.byE., distant five or six miles, when the best bower may be dropped. A bottom of fine hard sand extends to the village of Mondello, and to upwards of three miles in the offing; but opposite there the ground is broken, with rocky patches, deepening suddenly to forty-five fathoms, and then shoaling rapidly towards the Faro Point, but still of no danger whatever to ships under sail.

I now subjoin the Courses and Distances from each of the principal ports and headlands of the North Coast of Sicily, to the adjacent parts, in the degrees of the compass and nautic miles.

From Capo St. Vito to

	° ′	Miles.		° ′	Miles.
Maretimo	S. 71 34 W.	34	Ponza	N. 3 35 E.	160
Cagliari	N. 70 24 W.	182	Ustica	N. 32 40 E.	37
Monte Cristo . . .	N. 24 15 W.	271	Uomo Morto Point .	N. 89 15 E.	20
Civita Vecchia . .	N. 11 22 W.	238	Castellamare . . .	S. 28 14 E.	11

From Palermo to

Bastia	N. 33 04 W.	327	Civita Vecchia . .	N. 17 23 W.	248
Genoa	N. 28 03 W.	427	Naples	N. 14 10 E.	167
Elba	N. 26 11 W.	313	Policastro	N. 42 24 E.	157
Leghorn	N. 23 17 W.	354	Alicudi	N. 59 21 E.	49
Port Hercules . .	N. 19 54 W.	273	Lipari	N. 74 51 E.	77

From Cefalù.

Cape Zaffarana . .	N. 75 32 W.	24	Lipari	N. 56 18 E.	50
Ustica	N. 43 57 W.	60	Stromboli	N. 48 04 E.	72
Alicudi	N. 15 57 E.	34	Cape Orlando . .	N. 75 58 E.	33

From Cape Orlando to

		Miles.			Miles.
Palermo	N. 87 54 W.	82	Alicudi	N. 41 11 W.	33
Termini	S. 77 17 W.	50	Salina	N. 6 20 E.	28
Caronia	S. 62 14 W.	17	Cape Calava . .	N. 73 18 E.	7

From Port Madonna to

Felicudi	N. 42 26 W.	36	Stromboli	N. 11 44 E. . 42
Lipari	N. 8 25 W.	21	Cape Vaticano . .	N. 52 46 E. . 49
Panaria	N. 1 26 E.	31	Milazzo Light-house	N. 45 00 E. . 13

From Milazzo Light-house to

Cape Orlando . .	S. 69 52 W.	23	Naples	N. 16 31 W. . 160
Ustica	N. 74 33 W.	101	Policastro	N. 10 11 E. . 110
Lipari	N. 46 51 W.	17	Amantea	N. 39 43 E. . 66
Panaria	N. 21 27 W.	23	Cape Vaticano . .	N. 55 37 E. . 37
Stromboli	N. 1 24 W.	32	Cape Rasaculmo .	N. 83 40 E. . 18

From the Faro Point to

Lipari	N. 70 46 W.	36	Naples	N. 23 22 W. . 168
Panaria	N. 53 37 W.	37	Policastro	N. 00 49 W. . 108
Stromboli	N. 34 20 W.	39	Amantea	N. 22 33 E. . 55
Civita Vecchia . .	N. 38 17 W.	292	Cape Vaticano . .	N. 22 56 E. . 23
Ponza	N. 38 44 W.	200	Pietra-nera . . .	N. 61 42 E. . 12

ADDITIONAL HYDROGRAPHICAL REMARKS ON THE COASTS AND HARBOURS OF SICILY AND ITS ADJACENT ISLANDS.

CHAPTER II.

Detail of the East Coast of Sicily; the Faro, Messina, Taormina, Riposto, Aci, Trezza, Catania, Mount Ætna, Lentini, Augusta, Syracuse, Lognini, Vindicari, Marzamemi, Passaro.

FARO POINT.—A BANK extends about a quarter of a mile off the Faro Point to the eastward, with from seven to thirty fathoms' water, affording tolerable anchorage for ships that are waiting either for a passage to the southward or the westward; and the birth is better than at Acqua Ladrone, as there a vessel is liable to be caught by sea winds, when, though she will ride easily, it will be difficult for her to weigh and gain the strait. When, therefore, this place is desired, the ship should stand on the bank by the lead until she brings the light-house to bear W. by N.$\frac{1}{2}$N., distant seven or eight hundred yards; because, about a quarter of a mile to the N.E. of it, there is a foul spot liable to damage the cables. The exposure to the whole strength of the currents and winds renders this resort more eligible in summer than in winter; yet, as it is sometimes a necessary measure, I give the following as the best bearings:

Summit of Stromboli	N.W.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	fifteen fathoms, sand.
Cape Vaticano	N.N.E.	
Convent over Palma (coast of Calabria)	E.N.E.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	
Scylla Castle . . . ditto . .	E.byS.	
City of Messina	S.W.	

The east coast of Sicily has scarcely a hidden danger, and is almost every where bold to, and so clean, that the largest vessels may close it with the lead, as near as can be requisite; its tides and currents are affected by those of the Faro, and heavy gales occasion a strong northerly or southerly set, which must be particularly allowed for in shaping a course across its direction; the Bombay, of 74 guns, in 1816, was steering from Cape Spartivento towards Malta, when, in the middle of the night, they found themselves under

Cape Morro di Porco; and, had it been dark blowing weather, would, probably, have been lost.

For a more particular account of the currents in this Strait, the reader is referred to page 109, and the sequel.

Between the Faro Point and Messina, are several excellent sandy bays, affording eligible shelter for shipping of all sizes; but particularly at the fishing village of St. Agata; and off the Grotta, (a church with a dome,) midway of this distance. In the bay of Paradiso are some foul patches.

For vessels intending to make but a very short stay, there is a good birth to bring up at, off the Convent of St. Francesco di Paolo, because it ensures an offing for standing either northward or southward: is well sheltered, and has excellent holding ground; but, between it and Fort Salvador, there is a broken, foul bottom, very injurious to cables, in from twenty to thirty fathoms' water.

Messina Harbour.—The best mode of anchoring in Messina harbour is to run close in, off the Marina, with a warp ready for a stern-fast, then drop anchor in about thirty fathoms, and secure to the shore immediately. A ship can moor, if she prefers it, in the central part of the harbour, with her best bower N.E., and the small one S.W., having an open hawse to the N.W., as heavy squalls rush down the hills in that quarter; but, as the western anchor, from the steep nature of the bottom, is liable to be brought home, and the ship would quickly tail, mooring thus, is not so advisable as with fasts on the quay; yet there being many Commanders of His Majesty's ships, who prefer lying at their own anchors, more especially if they are going to remain long, I recommend the following birth:

Citadel Flagstaff	S.E.byS.	
Castel Gonzaga	W.S.W.	Best bower in 31 fathoms.
Cœur de Lion's Tower (Matagriffone)	W.byN.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	Ship in . . 35 „
Porta Reale Bastion	N.W.$\frac{1}{2}$W.	Small bower in 22 „
Light-house	E.$\frac{1}{4}$N.	

In the N.E. quarter, between Fort Salvador and the Lazaretto, a patch of ground has been made foul by the wrecks of two old line-of-battle ships.

Charybdis.—On leaving the harbour of Messina, and bound to the southward, care must be taken that the strength of the current does not carry a vessel on the Tangdora shoals, (two tailing points stretching out from a sort of bay, formed by the eddies of Charybdis,) the sand of which being full of bituminous particles, is nearly as hard as rock. To strangers entering the harbour at night, these shoals are dangerous, as ships are apt to close the light too much, and if the vessel grounds, the rapidity of the stream, and great

depth of water just outside, are obstacles to getting off again. To prevent the repetition of an accident, not unfrequent, I recommended a smaller light to be placed between the usual one and Fort Salvador, which has since been adopted, and must prove of infinite service.

To the southward of Messina, the coast is formed by a steep sandy beach, with from thirty to fifty fathoms' water, within a cable's length of the shore, affording only a temporary anchorage off Contessa, Mili, and St. Paolo, and even there, hawsers must be bended to steady with.

Point St. Alessio.—This is an abrupt bold cliff, beyond Savoca, with several rocks under it, where coasting craft anchor in tolerable security, though the water is shallow, and the sea fetches in.

Bay of Taormina.—Between Cape St. Andrea and Point Schisò, is the bay of Taormina, where tolerable anchorage is afforded in from eight to thirty fathoms, on a fine sandy bottom near the shore, and mud further out; this bay, however, is exposed to all the easterly winds, except close up with either of the points; it is, therefore, more a summer anchorage than otherwise, though it may be used in cases of necessity, when a central birth will be the best, because, if the winds threaten from the offing, a ship can weigh and weather either point.

Bay of La Trezza.—This bay affords tolerable anchorage in from twelve to seven fathoms' water, fine black sandy bottom, except near the rocks, and off Trezza, where are several foul patches.

L'Ognara.—The general depth in these coves is from seven to three fathoms, but the bottom is foul in patches; nevertheless, vessels had much better load there in the summer, than pay the expenses of the land carriage of their cargoes to Catania; and with chain cables it is very practicable.

Gulf of Catania.—Between La Trezza and Cape Sta. Croce, there is a spacious bay, quite clean, where ships may anchor in any part during the fine season, by picking up a birth with the lead; I once rode here during a very fresh breeze from the E.N.E., which, however, did not blow quite home; my situation was thus:

Highest Cyclop	N. by E.$\frac{1}{2}$E.	21 fathoms, sand and mud, two miles off shore
Summit of Ætna	N. by W.$\frac{3}{4}$W.	
Benedictine Cupola	N.W.$\frac{1}{2}$W.	
Mouth of the Giarretta	S.S.W.$\frac{1}{4}$W.	
Point Cornala	S.S.E.$\frac{1}{2}$E.	

Point Armisi is the north part of the port of Catania, and between it and the Sciarra point, all sized vessels may bring up for temporary occasions, in from seven to twelve fathoms, rocky bottom, watching the winds; but, in the small port, (formed by a stream of lava to the south, and two short piers on the north,) there are only three fathoms and a half at the greatest depth, and this does not extend far. I have, however, seen two or three large transports lying under the mole; and, on occasion, room might be made for more. This port is generally full of small craft that resort thither for corn, maccarone, oil, wine, *&c. &c.*; the active commerce of the place being such as to merit a far superior harbour.

La Bruca.—This little port is surrounded by rocks, rising vertically to the height of forty or fifty feet, with an approach of regular soundings, and a detail of bottom sufficiently indicated by the lead. There are two and a half fathoms near the castle; the western shore is the steepest, and hither small craft resort to load wheat, tunny, and squared building stone.

Augusta Harbour.—Standing in for the harbour of Augusta, a ship may sail by Cape Sta. Croce, at a convenient distance, it being pretty bold, though there are a few rocks and a tailing reef under the Convent. The next head land is Grossa Longa, the east point of Izzo bay, with a rock and small ledge under water, about one hundred and eighty yards to the southward of it. Having passed Izzo bay, and the foul bight, called Port Safonica, keep S. by W., until nearly three-quarters of a mile to the southward of the light-house that is erected on the extensive reef of rocks, on which His Majesty's ship Electra was lost in 1808; this will afford a clean channel of from fourteen to seventeen fathoms to run to the westward in, and it is advisable, as a general rule, to strangers, not to shoal to less than twelve from Sta. Croce thither. When the light-house and the cathedral, (the highest edifice in the town,) are in one, the ship may gradually haul up W.N.W. and then N.N.W., passing the light at nearly half a mile's distance, and take up a birth abreast of the town, in from eight to eleven fathoms, clay. Vessels may, indeed, run up beyond the forts, and anchor in from six to eight fathoms; but the air is not so wholesome as at the lower anchorage, owing to the vicinity of the Salterns, and its being more land-locked excludes the sea breezes. The following are good bearings for mooring in, with the anchors north and south, the westerly wind over the land being most troublesome in winter:

The Citadel	N.E.	Ship in ten fathoms, stiff clay, nearly half a mile from the town.
The Light-house	S.E. by E.	
Magnisi Tower	S.S.E.	
Cantara Point	S.S.W.$\frac{3}{4}$W.	
Vittoria Fort	N.W. by N.	

But care must be taken in coming in, not to run too far to the southward of the light-

house, as the dangerous shoal of Hybla lies about half way between it and the peninsula of Magnisi, with from three and a quarter to five fathoms on it, hard rock, deepening suddenly to eight and ten, gravel: the marks for it are the great tower of Prioli, (near the centre of the coast, between Augusta and Magnisi,) on with the last dark ravine in the mountain towards Mililli; and the light-house, a little open to the eastward of the cathedral. On this reef a Neapolitan line-of-battle ship, commanded by Naselli, the present Minister of Marine, was nearly lost; and the Spartiate, of seventy-four guns, one of Lord Nelson's squadron, grounded on it for several hours; large ships, therefore, coming from the southward, to avoid it, should keep towards Cape St. Croce until the light-house bears N.W. by W., about two miles, and then stand in towards the anchorage; or they may enter the S.W. channel, between the reef and Magnisi, by giving the latter a birth of three-quarters of a mile, and borrowing over towards the main, until the cathedral is seen well open to the westward of the light-house; and by keeping it open thus, there is plenty of room to beat.

The harbour is spacious and secure, with several rivers running into it; but in easterly and southerly gales, owing to its extensive entrance, there is often a great swell, which occasions those lying farthest out to ride heavy; the bottom, however, is so good as to render it necessary to sight the anchor at times, as it would otherwise require an immense purchase for weighing.

The Mole and the Pratique office are between the town and the citadel. There is another landing-place for boats under the line-wall, near the middle of the cordon of stones.

Magnisi.—In its two small bays, good anchorage is afforded to coasters, in from four to nine fathoms, sand.

Approach to Syracuse.—From Stentino, the coast to Syracuse is composed of rocky cliffs with numerous caves, but it is bold to, and without danger; excepting at night, when care must be taken to avoid "Lo Scoglio del Cane," the Dog-Rock, which lies off the town, and is low, with four fathoms between it and the walls. Inside the rocks of the Capuchins there is a small shallow bay.

Harbour.—Sailing into the harbour of Syracuse, the Plemmyrium shoals, which stretch about a third across the entrance of its mouth from the southward, must be avoided by large ships; the least water on them is three and a quarter fathoms, with seven between them and Massa point. When the ship is just clear of the light-house, two columns, the remains of the temple of Jupiter Olympius, will be observed on the opposite side of the harbour, near the Anapus river: with these two in one, a vessel will pass close inside the point, and give the shoals a wide birth in a channel of from nine to fifteen fathoms. Standing in at night from the northward, when the light is west a little southerly, by keeping W.S.W., a clear channel, close to Maniace point, will be gained. Coming from the south-

ward, keep the light on the larboard bow, and when it bears to the westward of N.W., the harbour can be safely stood for; and, in either case, good anchorage will be found to the northward of the entrance, abreast of the town. From the facility of getting out with light winds, the situation between the town and the salt-works, in from five to nine fathoms, fine black mud, is to be preferred; the N.W. part of the harbour, owing to the floods of the Anapus, and the marshes, is the shoalest.

The south-west winds, coming over the valley of the Maddalena, are the most violent, while the east and the south-east send in the greatest swell; it is, therefore, advisable for those, who are going to make any stay here in the winter, to moor with the best bower to the S.W., the small one to the N.E., and an open hawse to the mouth of the harbour, with the following bearings:

The Cathedral	N.E. by E.	Ship in six and a half fathoms, clay, off shore nearly half a mile.
The Light-house	E. by S.$\frac{1}{4}$S.	
Massa Point	S.E.	
Point Salso, the centre	S.W. by S.	
Columns of Jupiter Olympius . .	W.$\frac{1}{2}$S.	
Mouth of the Aqueduct	N.$\frac{1}{4}$W.	

Some years ago a vessel sunk opposite the Marina, and occasioned a foul birth, to the great injury of that part of the port where the country vessels resort; having examined her situation, with a view to weighing her with the Flotilla people, under my orders, I found, that by frequent deposits and suction, she was so imbedded in mud and silt, that it would require a purchase infinitely beyond the means in my power; I, therefore, recommended breaking her in the summer, when, from being so near the shore, and the favourable state of the weather to be expected, the timber and fragments might be fished up, and prevented from doing further damage. But, as I am uncertain whether the design was ever put in execution, I advise small vessels to remember that it lies about three hundred and twenty yards to the eastward of the landing-place, in two and three-quarters' fathoms.

Cape Morro di Porco.—Sailing from Syracuse, bound to the southward, a vessel may steer close by the bold cliff of Cape Morro di Porco, and can pass within a cable's length, in fifteen or twenty fathoms; after which she will soon lift Cape Passaro like an island.

Lognini.—Inside the above Cape, to the W.S.W. about three miles, is a secure port for small craft, called Lognini; and between it and Morro di Porco, is a fine bay with sandy coves, where ships of any size may find shelter from W. round to N.E., in about thirteen fathoms, sand and mud.

AVOLA.—From off this place, the tower on Passaro looks like a vessel under sail to the southward.

VINDICARI.—Its southern point is formed by a small islet, named Macaresa, joined to the main by a narrow spit of sand, with three feet water on it: small craft repairing thither should be careful to give the northern point a birth, as a reef tails from it; after which they can anchor in from three to five fathoms' water, noting, however, a rocky patch near the centre which may be avoided by keeping towards the tower.

Leaving Vindicari, a fine bay, with from five to fifteen fathoms, extends towards Marzamemi.

MARZAMEMI.—The port is very small and shallow, with two low islets off it, affording but sufficient room for a few trading boats to lie in about two and a quarter fathoms; and even then the easterly winds occasion so strong a ground swell, as to tear up the Alga-marina from the bottom, and throw it in large quantities on the beach. E.N.E. of the the town, about a mile distant, is a rocky reef, with one and one-quarter fathom on it, and a swashway between it and the land, of five fathoms. The Prince of Giardinelli has founded the town of Pachino on the hills, the church of which, with the windmill near it, are conspicuous objects all round this part of the coast.

Refreshments of every kind can be had by waiting a day or two, and water is procured at the end of the marshes.

PASSARO.—Passaro Isle is of bold approach on its north and east sides; on the south, it is steep and rocky; and, on the west, it is joined to the main by a sandy spit, with two feet water on it, forming a cone where small vessels anchor in southerly winds.

Between the Isle and Avola, good shelter is afforded to ships and small craft, that are obliged to bear up in the channel of Malta from a westerly gale, the birth being taken by the lead, in from nine to thirty fathoms' water, sand in shore, and stiff clay in the offing.

Attention must be paid in rounding the point under the tower, to keep clear of the Tunny-nets, moored from thence to the Tonnara, in the season for taking that fish.

Passaro Isle, being the limit of the eastern coast of Sicily, it is only necessary to add the course and distance of various places from its principal ports.

From Messina to

		Miles.			Miles.
Faro Point	N. 40° 36′ E. .	6½	Catania	S. 29° 03′ W. .	49
Reggio	S. 33 42 E. .	6	Augusta	S. 16 47 W. .	60
Taormina	S. 30 23 W. .	26½	Syracuse	S. 11 49 W. .	69

From Taormina to

		Miles.			Miles.
Reggio	N. 42° 24′ E.	24½	Zante	S. 89° 50′ E.	244
Cape Spartivento .	N. 77 11 E.	36	Cape Matapan .	S. 76 02 E.	352
Cape Sta. Croce .	S. 04 05 W.	33	Derna	S. 49 53 E.	473

From Catania to

Taormina	N. 6 51 E.	20	Cape Spartivento .	N. 58 27 E. . 53½
Messina	N. 29 03 E.	49	Zante	N. 86 04 E. . 277
Cape dell' Armi . .	N. 28 56 W.	34	Port la Bruca . .	S. 25 01 E. . 13¼

From Augusta to

Reggio	N. 21 12 E.	57	Cape Sta. Maria di Leuca	N. 43 49 E. 215
Cape Spartivento .	N. 42 14 E.	57	Fano	N. 50 52 E. 249
Cape Rizzuta . .	N. 40 40 E.	140	Santa Maura . . .	N. 69 33 E. 277

From Syracuse to

Corfu	N. 52 49 E.	256	Cape Spada . .	S. 77 50 E. . 394
Santa Maura . .	N. 52 32 E.	176	Alexandria . .	S. 63 49 E. . 793
Cephalonia . . .	N. 74 25 E.	253	Bomba	S. 53 25 E. . 471
Zante	N. 80 04 E.	255	Bengazi	S. 36 14 E. . 367
Strophadia . . .	N. 87 21 E.	259	Mezurata . . .	S. 4 01 W. . 288
Cerigo	S. 80 49 E.	263	Tripoli	S. 25 20 W. . 275

From Cape Passaro to

Marzamemi . . .	N. 21 48 W.	4¼	Derna	S. 57 23 E. . 441
Vindicari . . .	N. 21 46 W.	8½	Mesurata . . .	S. 00 12 E. . 360
Syracuse . . .	N. 68 03 E.	39	Valetta	S. 33 14 W. . 56
Cape Spartivento .	N. 29 25 E.	86	Pantellaria . . .	S. 51 24 W. . 160

CHAPTER III.

Detail of the South Coast of Sicily, La Marza, Ispica, Modica, Scoglietti, Terra Nova, Alicata, Girgenti, Siculiana, Sciacca.

The south coast of Sicily is generally low and arid, and does not possess a single harbour for large ships, though there are several tolerable summer anchorages, of which the principal are those of Port Paolo, Alicata, Girgenti, Siculiana, and Sciacca: the secondary ones are La Marza, Pozzallo, Secca, Scoglietti, Terra Nova, Port Nicolo, Palma, and Porto Palo; with several intermediate ones of still minor consideration. The most reable headlands that distinguish this coast, are Cape Passaro, Cape Scalambra, Point Tenda, Cape Bianco, Cape San Marco, and Cape Granitola; the approaches to which are not so clean, or so deep, as those on the north and the east shores; as already detailed. But, though I found several banks, there is no shoal of consequence at a mile off shore; excepting the one off Girgenti, the approaches to the Marinata of Cape Bianco, and the sands of Cape Granitola; and these, being clearly marked on the chart, are readily distinguished: a good general rule for a stranger, working along the coast at night, is not to stand inside of seventeen to twenty fathoms; by day he may close to twelve.

Cape Passaro.—This cape might prove dangerous to strangers in the night, or in thick weather, on account of its being generally understood that Cape Passaro and Passaro Isle, are one and the same; a vessel, therefore, under this impression, would probably haul round to the westward, after passing the redoubt, and in the evening, the point being very low, she might be on the reef, before the land could be seen; it was by such a mistake, that an English line of battle ship got aground there, a few years ago, and received considerable damage.

Inside Cape Passaro, is Port Paolo, a convenient place for coasters, in all winds but that from south; having a good sandy bottom, mixed with mud, and from five to three fathoms inside, and seven to ten at its entrance, where I have seen nearly a dozen vessels ride out a brisk northerly gale.

From hence a bay called Fontanelle, with regular soundings in mud and sand, stretches to Point Formiche, a low white cliff; off which five black rocks appear just above the surface of the water, and a reef trending nearly a mile out, carrying from three to six fathoms.

La Marza.—N.W. from the Isle of Currents, distant nearly six miles, is the small shallow bay of La Marza.

Over against Grotta Point, is a reef, the extreme of which is marked by two rocks above water, called Chiappe; and outside them, with a good channel of eight to ten fathoms' water between them, lies the group of flat rocks, called the Porri, from a species of wild leek growing there, and for the sake of which various birds resort to them; they may always be approached with the lead, in the day-time.

Pozzallo.—This is the principal caricatore of the county of Modica, for the exportation of its produce, and it affords summer anchorage in from twelve to seven fathoms, sand: it has a small pier and several magazines.

Provisions may be procured at a moderate rate.

Porto Secco.—Porto Secco, is a good place for vessels of light draft, being secured against a southwester by a long low rock, but must be of difficult access in fresh weather, owing to the heavy overfalls off all this part of the coast.

Cape Scalambra is a low rocky projection, with several points between it and Scoglietti, from which a reef extends some distance out, and though approachable by the lead, may prove dangerous in the dark; I have, indeed, seldom passed without seeing a wreck on it; and, in 1814, there were two Greeks, a Sicilian, and an English ship, all lying bilged, after a breeze from the westward: how useful then, a light would be, either on the tower of Scalambra, Pera, or Bracetto! Ships passing, should never stand inside fourteen fathoms, unless they know their ground, and the set of the currents.

In each of these coves, the carubba, or locust-bean, charcoal, wood, and other produce of the district of Sta. Croce, are embarked; but grain can be exported only from the regular caricatore.

Terra Nova.—This town stands on a tabled hill, between the rivulets of Muratio and Soprano.

The anchorage is about a mile from the town, in from seven to eleven fathoms, sand and mud; but it is very much exposed, and every change of wind ought to be watched, as that from the S.W. sends in a great sea, and when it blows fresh, there is not room to get under weigh and make sail. Small craft lie at the caricatore under the Torre dell' Insegna, at a small distance from the town; observing that off the entrance of the rivulet Dissuteri, are several small banks.

From Terra Nova, the beach trends along by Menfri to Falconara, a rocky point, with a large square tower, some magazines, and a country-seat belonging to the Prince of Butera, near which are some beautiful and fertile grounds. Passing the rock of St. Nicola and the beach of Foggitella, the river Salso, which divides the provinces of Noto and Mazzara,

empties itself into the sea between Alicata and Fonducella, forming a shoal bar before its entrance of nearly a mile, on which the surf beats heavily in winds from the southward; boats, however, may be taken into the river, but the pass is very narrow, and demands intimate acquaintance with the ground.

Alicata.—At present, vessels anchor about a mile S.W. of the town, in from seven to twelve fathoms, good clayey bottom; but, in winter, this anchorage is exposed to all the winds from east to west round southerly. In coming to, stand in by the lead, and bring the flag staff of the sea castle to bear well to the eastward of the Fonducello Hillock, and drop the anchor as near the following bearings as may be convenient, remembering to buoy up the cables in light winds, to prevent chafing:

Palu Tower, over Tenda Point . . .	N.W.byW.	Ship in 8½ fathoms, mud, off shore about a mile.
Upper Castle	N.byW.	
Sea Castle	N.E.	
San Nicolo Rock	E.N.E.	

Port Nicolo.—Rounding the hill west of Alicata, is a singular little bay called Port Nicolo, where small craft procure shelter in from two to four fathoms; it is formed by a rock, joined to the main by a narrow neck of land, and has a large valley stretching from its beach towards the extensive plain of Serrata. Three miles N.W. of it is the mouth of the river Ciotta, with a bar off it; and on its right bank the high, but useless, tower of Grugno, with a few magazines at its base. This part of the coast, easily known by the round white tower of Palu on the brow of a hill above, is perfectly regular in its approach by the lead, with the exception of a bank off Point Tenda, on which are seven fathoms, but it is clear of all danger, except slight overfalls.

Palma.—Beyond Tenda Point lies the bay and marina of Palma, with some magazines and a stout tower for their protection; off which vessels ride in from five to eight fathoms, good ground, but much exposed. Palma is a respectable town, pleasantly situated on a hill about two miles from the beach.

Under the castle of Monte Chiaro, the coast is a continued shelf of rocks, breaking some distance out, and, in bad weather, the land is almost inaccessible.

Bay of Girgenti.—Off point Bianco lie two rocks above water, the larger of which, is named the Patella, with a channel of seven fathoms between it and the main; but coasters taking the inner passage, must be very careful of a sunken rock off the river di Naro, lying about a mile and a quarter out, with only four feet water on it, and six or seven fathoms all round, at a few yards' distance: the marks are Rosso Tower over the white cliff of Monte Reale to the westward, and to the eastward, the tower of Palu between Point Bianco and Monte Grande.

The towers of Rosso and Rossello stand on a brownish red point, easily distinguished from the white cliffs on either side.

Between the mole of Girgenti and the river di Naro, is the river of Girgenti, choked with shallows; about three miles to the southward of which, is a bank to be avoided in standing in for the anchorage; it trends W.N.W., and E.S.E., with from three and a half to five fathoms on the shoalest part, deepening gradually, with rocky patches, to ten and twelve, and at a little distance every way to thirteen and fifteen fathoms, sand. The marks for the shoalest part are, the Mole Tower on with the upper light-house; Rosella Tower open to the eastward of Rosso; the central part of Girgenti N.byE.$\frac{1}{2}$E., and Monte Chiaro Castle just open, and nearly on with the small tower of Palu on the hills to the eastward.

Between this shoal and the mole-head, is very excellent anchorage for ships of every description, to be taken at choice, in from seven to ten fathoms, sand and clay, with a bottom level and clean, where, though exposed to all the winds from W.N.W. round southerly to S.E., it must be a very uncommon gale, indeed, that would excite any serious apprehension. If the following bearings can be taken up, they give a station in command of the mole-head in a S.W. wind, though it is further out than a vessel need lie in the summer months:

Rosello Tower	W.N.W.	Ship in nine fathoms, stiff clay, a mile and a quarter from the mole steps.
Mole Prison Tower	N.$\frac{1}{4}$W.	
Centre of Girgenti	N.E.$\frac{1}{4}$N.	
Point Bianco	S.E.byE.	

The mole is well finished and convenient, with a good watering-place in the centre, and mooring posts all round, terminated by a mole-head battery and light-house: it is to be regretted, that in planning this excellent undertaking, the engineer did not carry the central branch more to the westward, and throw the outer arm into deeper water, where the undertow would have been much weaker.

The depth of water cannot always be depended on, because the southerly winds send in a quantity of sand and silt; but usually at the mole-head and along the inner part of the southern arm, there are two and a half, and three fathoms, decreasing rapidly along the central part to eleven and nine feet towards the shoals that stretch out from the shore. Vessels, going in, should first be certain that there is a birth for them, as the port being small, and the only one on the coast, is generally crowded, and by neglecting this precaution, much damage might be occasioned; but should the mole be pretty clear, as much sail must be kept set, till the moment of anchoring, as will give considerable way in, for the wind and current being acted upon by the mole-head, often occasions a ship to drift out. If the weather permits, a hawser should be previously sent to be made fast to the mole-head mooring post, and taken on board the moment the vessel is rounding it, to prevent her falling on the shallows.

By a port regulation, when ships arrive, the first that delivers her ballast, and takes in any portion of her cargo, as a few pigs of sulphur, or a little grain, or any other article, must be completely loaded before another is commenced with; this has often been turned to advantage by those masters who frequent this place.

Siculiana.—In leaving Girgenti, it is advisable to weigh with the land breeze, as it gives sufficient time for the anchors to be stowed, and an offing to be gained, before the sea-breeze sets in, it being often pretty fresh, even in summer.

Siculiana lies about six miles and a half to the westward of Girgenti; the coast is without hidden dangers, defended by the towers of Rosso and Rosella, erected on points with rocky bases, and a sandy cove between them. The town stands on two hills in an abrupt and barren country, at a little distance inland: the caricatore for the sulphur is on the west bank of the Canna rivulet, and before it, at nearly half a mile off shore, a rocky shoal stretches along the coast with from one to three fathoms on it, and five fathoms, sand, inside. Ships of burthen usually anchor about a mile and a quarter out, in from seven to eleven fathoms, sand and clay, with large pebbles that rub the cables; but those of from one hundred and eighty to two hunrded and fifty tons, can pass the reef in a favourable moment and moor securely inside it. If the weather is very settled, and the lading ready for embarkation, (which is generally the case,) a vessel will ride very comfortably thus,

Cape Bianco	N.W.$\frac{1}{2}$W.	Nine fathoms, mud, off shore nearly one and a half mile.
Torre Felice	N.$\frac{1}{4}$E.	
Siculiana Castle	N.E.byN.	
Rosso Town	E.$\frac{1}{2}$S.	

Bay of Sciacca.—Cape Bianco is a white promontory, about ninety feet high, with a shoal reef, extending nearly a mile and a half, to the southward of it.

I had heard of a shoal off Point Cristauro, said to be three or four miles out to sea, and lying N.W. and S.E.; I searched in every direction, but could find nothing except the eight fathom bank I have placed in the chart.

Ships ride at about a mile off Sciacca in the summer time, in from seven to twelve fathoms, sand and clay, but they are exposed to every wind from S.E. round southerly to W., so that it is resorted to only during the fine months, except by boats and flat-floored vessels that can be beached. The best spot to drop anchor is with the following bearings:

Cape St. Marco	W.byN.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	In eight fathoms, mud, off shore about a mile.
Sciacca Castle	N.	
Christauro Tower	E.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	
Cape Bianco	S.E.byE.	

Gulf of Tre Fontane.—The bight, between Cape St. Marco and Cape Granitola, is

called the Gulf of Tre Fontaine. It has regular soundings and easy shores, but without any good shelter, except in the port of Palu, in the mid-distance, where small craft can lie. To know this port, as it would not be readily distinguished by a stranger, because the point overlaps, steer for the first tower to the westward of Menfrici, a tower appearing on the hill about eight miles to the N.W. of Cape St. Marco: Port Palu is nine miles N.W. of that cape, and thirteen miles W.$\frac{1}{4}$N. from Cape Granitola. St. Marco itself is an abrupt forked point, of moderate height, and a reddish colour, forming the west extreme of Sciacca bay; it has a square tower, with a battery on its summit, and at its base lies a shelf of rocks, which, however, may be approached pretty close by the lead.

Courses and distances, in nautical miles, from Ports on the south coast of Sicily, to probable places of destination:

From Pozallo to

		Miles.			Miles.
Gozo	S. 37° 12′ W.	54	Pantellaria	N. 87° 44′ W.	152
Valetta	S. 17 37 W.	53¼	Cape Scalambra	N. 87 17 W.	21
Lampedusa	S. 55 21 W.	133¾	Alicata	N. 66 26 W.	47⅓

From Terra Nova to

Pantellaria	S. 83 56 W.	113½	Linosa	S. 43 20 W. . 97½
Alicata	N. 84 18 W.	15	Scoglietti	S. 42 43 E. . 15
Lampedusa	S. 40 46 W.	124	Valetta	S. 10 40 E. . 70

From Alicata to

Valetta	S. 21 55 E.	75½	Zerbi, or Jerba	S. 40 48 W. . 251
Bengazi	S. 45 05 E.	421	Sfax, or Sfacus	S. 48 15 W. . 168
Tripoli	S. 8 22 W.	353	Suza	S. 65 30 W. . 175
Lampedusa	S. 34 28 W.	115	Pantellaria	S. 83 10 W. . 109

From Girgenti to

Valetta	S. 30 03 E.	95	Sfacus	S. 42 08 W. . 206
Tripoli	S. 3 45 W.	262	Kerkenis bank	S. 31 03 W. . 171
Lampedusa	S. 23 12 W.	116½	Susa	S. 57 47 W. . 163
Zerbi, or Jerba	S. 32 24 W.	239	Cape Bon	S. 84 36 W. . 117

From Sciacca to

Cape Scalambra	S. 57 06 E.	81	Sfacus	S. 33 42 W. . 203
Valetta	S. 35 51 E.	118½	Susa	S. 48 59 W. . 155
Lampedusa	S. 11 19 W.	123½	Pantellaria	S. 55 23 W. . 54½

CHAPTER IV.

Detail of the West Coast of Sicily, Mazzara, Marsala, San Pantaleo, Trapani, Eryx, Cofano, Favignana, Levanso, and Maritimo.

In making the west coast from the northward or westward, Maritimo, Cape St. Vito, Cape Cofano, and Mount St. Julian, sufficiently guide the stranger; but coming from the southward and eastward, great care must be taken in the approach by night.

Cape Granitola.—Ships should never approach nearer to this point than two miles, as, from the apparent irregularity of the currents, it is difficult to tell their direction, that generally depending on the previous winds. But should a vessel, by stress of weather, by accident, or from the "Marobia," get on the shoals, I would particularly caution the crew against attempting to land, during a fresh breeze, near the point, it being shallow in its approach, and generally beat by a very heavy surf, with a strong resurge. In such a disaster, a boat should pull, at a convenient distance from the shore, to Trefontane, if the wind is from the westward; or to Cala Dajolo, with a contrary. From either of these places it is easy to communicate with Mazzara.

From Cape Granitola the coast trends away to the northward, is rocky, and, as far as Trapani and the "tonnara" of Bonazia, has foul ground, extending in many parts more than a mile out; to this the lead is, in most places, a tolerable direction, but ships should generally keep a wide offing, with westerly winds, as there are frequent overfalls at some distance, and it must have been one of these that His Majesty's ship Greyhound passed through in great alarm in 1803: but unless blowing a gale dead on, the coast is not at all unsafe to approach, with proper caution.

Mazzara.—Passing the small white tower of Caldara, the Coves of Dajolo and Due Marine, with the rivulet of Delia, at about two miles from the latter, stands the city of Mazzara.

The want of a port for vessels of magnitude is felt in the winter. The entrance of the river Salemi forms a very convenient haven for small craft; but larger vessels are obliged to lie at a very exposed anchorage in the roads, in from eight to twelve fathoms, in situation, thus:

Cape Feto	N.W.	Ten fathoms, clay, off shore about one mile and a half;
Mazzara Citadel	N.E.byE ½E.	
Caldara Tower	S.E.	
Cape Granitola	S.E.½S.	

nor is it prudent to approach nearer, on account of the overfalls occasioned either by fresh breezes, or by the "Marobia."

Cape Feto.—From Mazzara, standing to the N.W., the coast lies very low to Cape Feto, which, though shoal, has a small cove, covered by a rock, where small craft resort: outside of it, at the distance of about seven miles, to the W.N.W., is a large bank, with from eight to twelve fathoms' water, where fishermen find a profitable employment.

Marsala.—Between Mr. Woodhouse's Mole and the beach, there are from seven to fourteen feet, stiff bottom. As the entrance is narrow, and the shoals trend from Cape Boeo to the S.E., in many places nearly even with the water's edge, it is necessary, in taking up this little port, to keep the centre of the Augustine Convent a little open of Mount St. Julian (the distant hill, with a town on it,) and when within a short distance of the shore, to stand to the N.W. a little, and drop an anchor.

Ships of size must lie to the S.W. of the city, in from eleven to eight fathoms' water, at the distance of nearly two miles off shore, because the rocks extend in every direction more than a mile from the land. The following birth has clean ground for a temporary stay:

St. Catharine's Castle, on Favignana . . .	N.N.W.	Ship in eight and a half fathoms, mud, off shore two miles.
Chapel on Cape Boeo	N.E.$\frac{1}{2}$E.	
Mr. Woodhouse's "Ballio" (dwelling, stores, &c.)	E.$\frac{1}{4}$N.	
Mount St. Julian	N.E.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	
Cape Feto	S.E.	

Stagnone.—The space from the shore to nearly a mile out in the offing, in the direction of Favignana, is a continuation of shoals and broken ground in patches, in many parts of which even my boat grounded.

Trapani.—Vessels of from two to three hundred tons may lie at the quay, just above the Pratique Office, where it is usual to have a fast under the walls, and an anchor laid out on the mud shoals. Ships of greater draught bring up near the Colombara, in from eight to ten fathoms' water, muddy bottom, but uneven and patchy; people of the country carry fasts to the shore, but I should prefer mooring with the anchors S.S.E. and N.N.W. The ground over all this part is very much broken, and occasions strong counter-tides in fresh breezes: they are, however, never so strong but that a ship may beat against them. In settled weather it is high water at nine hours thirty-five minutes, P.M., with a spring rise of nearly two feet; and it sets, if uninfluenced by any particular wind, N.E. and S.W.

Favignana.—Between Favignana and Levanso is an eligible rendezvous for a fleet, with excellent anchorage, in the following positions:

Sugar-Loaf Rock of Levanso . .	W.N.W.$\frac{1}{2}$N.	Twenty-one fathoms, mud, just off the gravelly bottom
Point Grossa	N.N.W.	
Formiche Tower	N.E.$\frac{1}{2}$E.	
Mount St. Julian's	E.N.E.	
Theodore Tower	S.E.	
St. Catharine's Castle	W.S.W.$\frac{1}{2}$S.	

There are good births in Cala Rossa, in from seven to twenty fathoms' water. Here advantage may be taken of any wind for coming or going; and there is a tolerable supply of vegetables, fruit, and water.

Formiche.—The channel between the Formiche is safe in fine weather (if necessary to use it,) there being seven and eight fathoms near the desert one; but nearly mid-channel there is a shoal, with only two and a half fathoms upon it. To the E.N.E. of the castle, distant nearly half a mile, another danger exists, with little more than two fathoms upon it, the following places bearing thus: The Port of Formiche on with St. Catharine's Castle, and Trapani Light-house on with the Citadel Flagstaff.

Trapani Channels.—Persons, unacquainted with the navigation of these channels, ought not to attempt the inner channel without consulting the plan of it, for though it is perfectly safe with a leading wind, a sudden shift and the set of the current may bewilder a stranger, and the quarantine regulations are often obstacles to procuring a pilot for the occasion; however, as much time may be saved, and a knowledge of the passage would very soon be obtained, a few directions may prove of great advantage.

On making Trapani from the northward, the tops of the houses look like several sail at some distance, from the foot of Mount St. Julian, the latter instantly known by the town on its summit. In running for it, the dangerous reef, called the Porcelli (the Pigs), a mass of rocks, on a wash with the water, must be avoided, by keeping well to the eastward; and on passing the islet Asinello, bringing the town of the Formiche to bear S.W., the marks for the Porcelli are, Colombara Light-house on with the hill south of Paceco, and Formiche Tower exactly mid-channel between Favignana and Marsala, the approach being very bold to them on all sides, there being seventeen, twelve, and eight fathoms, then all at once scarcely a foot, and many of the summits above water, but generally surrounded with breakers. Between the outer pinnacle to the north, and the main body of the shoal, is a swash of six and seven fathoms' water, that makes a good place to moor a boat, in fine weather, for fishing. Having passed this danger well to the eastward, if desirous of anchoring in Trapani, the Mal Consiglio Rocks and Sigia Point can be rounded, keeping them at a short mile distant, to avoid a small ledge called the Bullata, with only nine feet on it. The Rock of Colombara can then be hugged at three-quarters of a cable, until opposite the Light-house, where large ships find the best anchorage, by bringing it to bear N.$\frac{1}{2}$W.

From Trapani, to sail to the southward through the inner channel, give the Formiche a birth, by keeping it about a mile to the westward, and the lead will carry ten and twelve fathoms; after passing it, stand away towards Cala Rossa, at the foot of the high east point of Favignana, and go by it at the distance of about half a mile, when the ship will be carried clear of the shoals of Borrone, and may stand away to the southward. A plain clear channel is also to be found by running from the northward for Levanso (guarding against the Porcelli,) and passing the east side of the island about a mile off, shaping a course for Cala Rossa, and steering as before directed.

In the night, or in thick weather, the passage between Levanso and Maritimo ought to be preferred, as it is clear of all danger, although overfalls sometimes shew on a rocky patch of seven and eight fathoms, about three miles to the westward of Levanso Sugar-Loaf. But it must be recollected, that the east and west coasts of Favignana are low, and not easily seen in a dark night. When the ship is through, the island should either be held pretty close on board, or kept at four or five miles' distance, on account of the banks of St. Catharine, two foul spots lying N.N.E. and S.S.W., with a deep swash-way between. The south bank has no danger, the least water being seventeen fathoms, but the head of the other is formed by a dangerous rock, of three fathoms, shelving down at once to seventeen and thirty fathoms on the north side. It lies S.$\frac{1}{4}$E., nearly three miles from St. Catharine's Castle, and the marks for laying it on are: to bring the lower peak under the castle just on with the west side of Levanso, and Levanso Tower a little open to the westward of S. Giacomo. As this ledge lies in the usual tract for going from Malta round the islands to the coast of Italy, it must be avoided, when coming from that direction, by keeping Favignana nearly five miles to the northward, until well to the westward of it, and then to stand by Levanso.

Ships from the westward, bound to Palermo, after making Maritimo, should keep Cape St. Vito on the starboard bow; it is high and conical, and being the northernmost land seen, cannot be mistaken. They will then pass clear of the Porcelli, and carry offing enough to be well outside Cofano Bay, which, in a heavy northerly wind and a carrying current, is disagreeable. To proceed for Trapani from the same direction, stand close by Cape Grosso, the north point of Levanso, which is so bold that it may be brushed, and then steer direct for Colombara Light-house, passing over a foul patch, with five and a quarter fathoms on it, mid-way between the Porcelli and Formiche.

Emilia Point.—From Trapani to the tonnara of St. Julian, and from thence to Cacimeni, a small village amongst the trees, there is a fine sandy beach; the coast thence by the Points Pizzo-longo, Ferro, and Emilia, is rugged and rocky, with a foul bottom nearly half a mile out. The last-mentioned point, Emilia, is a low tongue of land, with a small sugar-loaf peak on it at the foot of Mount St. Julian. N.N.W. from Cacimeni, about two miles, lies the Asinello, a barren rock, of considerable size; and between the two places there is a fair channel of sixteen fathoms, but strangers ought to be careful of using it, on account

of a stream often setting over the Emilia shoal, a steep reef, a mile due north of the point of that name, having two fathoms on it and six to ten adjacent.

I was once caught with a very strong south-wester, when returning to Trapani with a crippled mast, and being prevented thereby from beating, I anchored in twelve fathoms, between Asinello and the village, where I rode so easily, that I am convinced, for all winds from N.E. round to S.W., the anchorage is as good as can be desired. The following were the bearings:

Cape Grosso	W.$\frac{1}{4}$S.	Twelve fathoms, clay, off shore three-quarters of a mile.
Sigia Tower	W.S.W.$\frac{1}{2}$S.	
St. Julian's Tonnara	S.byW.	
St. Julian's Hill Tower	E.S.E.	
Asinello Rock	N.byW.	

Cape Cofano.—This is a rugged conical mount, with a bold approach, carrying ten fathoms close under, and has a stout tower of defence defiladed on the land side, as high up as the ascent of the hill is practicable: to the north of it is a large farm and a tonnara, the boats of which anchor securely between it and the islet of Vermia. The space between the Capes of Cofano and St. Vito is called the Bay of Calazzi; it affords shelter in S.E. gales, the bottom being deep and clean, and the beach has excellent landing, as far as the tower of Lucchesi.

Cape St. Vito.—Rounding this cape from the eastward, with the intention of proceeding to Trapani, the town of St. Julian will be perceived on the summit of the mountain, where the navigator may stand close in with the coast in perfect safety, until past Cofano, where an offing must be made by the Emilia shoal; or, with a leading wind, a ship may shape a course, in the day-time, direct from Cape St. Vito to Levanso, until Asinello is abaft the beam, and then stand in between the Mal Consiglio and Porcelli Rocks, for the anchorage.

About twenty-eight miles to the N.N.W. of Cape St. Vito is a coral bank, with from twenty-seven to sixty fathoms' water. This I had not an opportunity of visiting, but I have received a very detailed report from several of the best fishermen who had frequented it; and, therefore, I entertain no doubt of its position within a mile or two.

I now subjoin the courses and distances from the west coast of Sicily, to the various neighbouring places, but I have been the more particular with those from Maritimo, as it is one of the most important landfalls in the Mediterranean sea.

From Cape Granitola to

	° ′	Miles.		° ′	Miles.
Valetta	S. 42 32 E.	136	Cape Bon	S. 68 50 W.	80
Lampedusa	S. 00 44 W.	125	Zembra	S. 74 16 W.	92
Pantellaria	S. 38 32 W.	55	Maritimo	N. 43 31 W.	37

From Marsala to

		Miles.			Miles.
Cape Feto	S. 29 03 E. .	8	Tunis	S. 60 03 W. .	112
Pantellaria	S. 23 18 W. .	62	Favignana . . .	N. 32 28 W. .	10½
Suza	S. 35 26 W. .	146	Maritimo . . .	N. 51 00 W. .	20½

From Maritimo to

Cape Granitola . .	S. 43 19 E. .	37	Tripoli	S. 1 04 E. .	307
Valetta	S. 42 45 E. .	173	Cape Bon	S. 40 12 W. .	73¼
Lampedusa . . .	S. 9 16 E. .	154	Zembra	S. 49 24 W. .	80
Tunis	S. 49 27 W. .	108	Leghorn	N. 13 44 W. .	342
Bizerta	S. 67 28 W. .	115	Civita Vecchia .	N. 3 25 W. .	244
The Esquerques Shoal	S. 75 07 W. .	58½	Ponza	N. 13 58 E. .	176
Keith's Reef . . .	S. 73 47 W. .	43	Naples	N. 31 00 E. .	197
Cagliari	N. 62 32 W. .	156	Policastro . . .	N. 53 41 E. .	208
Ogliastro . . .	N. 42 48 W. .	162	Ustica	N. 51 39 E. .	67¾
Bastia	N. 23 03 W. .	305½	Trapani	N. 87 48 E. .	26
Genoa	N. 20 30 W. .	410	Cape St. Vito . .	N. 71 34 E. .	35

CHAPTER V.

Of the Sicilian Islands, the Group of the Æolian, or Lipari, Islands, and Ustica, Pantellaria, Linosa, Lampedusa, and Lampion.

STROMBOLI.—I FOUND gradual soundings of from four to twenty fathoms all round the coasts, even to the two points of Schiarazza Cove; but immediately under the Cone, at the distance of a few yards from the shore, forty-seven fathoms, and, a little farther out, sixty and ninety.

Off Point Zarrosa are some sunken rocks, but outside them there are regular soundings to sixty fathoms, at about half a mile out.

PANARIA AND ISLETS.—Large ships may anchor on good ground between the Corvo, or Crow Rock, and the Formiche, or Ants, outside the harbour, in from ten to fifteen fathoms, keeping a look out in winter on the sea winds.

The coasts of Panaria are pretty bold, and there are passages between it and all its rocks, in from ten to thirty fathoms.

Dattolo is a steep white rock, about a mile to the eastward of Panaria, with thirty fathoms' water between them, and after passing the Panarelli, from thirty-five to forty fathoms, between it and Basiluzzo.

Bottaro lies about a mile to the S.W. of Tilanavi; it is low and rocky. S.E. of it, about a mile and a quarter, and consequently to the south of Tilanavi, is a dangerous shoal of rugged lava, with from two and a half to five fathoms on it, and twelve near it in all directions; the marks are, Bottaro and Dattalo almost in one, and Tilanavi on the lower part of Basiluzzo: in the Chart I have called it Ann's Reef.

Panarelli is a nest of black rocks, in the channel between Dattolo and Basiluzzo, having six fathoms' water between them and the former, and from thirty-five to forty towards the latter.

The Formiche, or Ants, are a still smaller ledge, between Bottaro and the Corvo Rock, nearly even with the water's edge, and liable to be overlooked at night; there are six fathoms around them, and the channel from thence to Panaria is deep and safe, carrying from ten to fifteen fathoms.

LIPARI.—The water around Lipari is very deep, running thirty and fifty fathoms close in; except on one spot, off the beach in the northern bay, where a rocky lava reef stretches out, with three fathoms on its head, and six on its swash. Vessels, to the number

of sixteen or seventeen, lie between this shoal and the castle in security, dropping their anchor in twelve or fourteen fathoms, and carrying stern-fasts to the shore. Craft of the island moor to the south of the castle, off the Pratique-Office Mole, and many fishing-boats beach in the cove called Porto Niente. Large ships may take up an anchorage in the part of the northern bay, under the Scala di Canneto, called sometimes St. Giacomo, where, though the bottom is good, the S.E. wind is very inconvenient.

Between Cape Castagna, the N.E. extreme of the island, and Point Legna-nera, is the bay and village of Acqua Calda, affording shelter in southerly winds, but with a guard on those from seaward.

Two miles outside to Scoglio del Bagnois, a very dangerous ledge, to which I gave the name of Bentinck Shoal, two hundred yards in circuit, with two and a half fathoms on it; and at the distance of a few feet each way, from sixteen to twenty-five. It is the head of a bank, about four miles in extent, carrying from twenty to forty fathoms; the marks for the shoalest part are, to bring Pietra Longa just open to the north of Vulcanello, and the Bath rock midway between Mount St. Calogero and the chapel St. Angelo.

Passing the bight called Valle di Mura, and the rocks off a perforated point, called the Quails, is the bay of the Praja del Vinco, with a barren bleak shore; but where, nevertheless, in company with two Greek vessels, I rode out a strong northerly gale, in May, 1815, having anchored in eight fathoms, sandy bottom, pretty close in.

Point Chiapparo is the extreme of the Praja del Vinco, and the south end of the island of Lipari; between it and the north point of Vulcanello, is a perfectly safe channel, a mile broad, and carrying from thirty to forty fathoms in the middle, but with some winds there is a set of currents, accompanied with a disagreeable ripple, that strangers, perhaps, would not like. A strong smell of sulphur is perceptible at some distance to leeward.

Vulcano.—The western port is very picturesque, and affords excellent shelter for small vessels, in from two and a half to five fathoms, black sand; but, should the N.W. gales of winter send in a heavy under-tow, as is sometimes the case, they can easily weigh and shift round to the eastern one, where they lie nearly under the crater, in perfect security, on a sulphureous bottom of singular aspect.

On leaving the western port, the first projection to the westward is an abrupt mass of lava, with ten fathoms close to it, called Turk's Point, from the circumstance of a corsair having been stranded there in attempting to cut off a merchant vessel; between it and Point del Moraco is a cave with a rock in the centre, it is named the Cala di Formaggio, and, in Scirocco winds, is resorted to by fishermen. From thence a craggy bight, of bold approach, extends to Point Cappuccio, near the deep cavern, called the Grotta del Cavallo, off which is the Pietra della Quiete, a steep detached rock, with a passage between it and the land, if necessary.

The south-west extreme of the island is Cape Rotta di Batti, and, by some, called

Rosario, a part of which has fallen into the sea from the destruction of its base by corrosion, and has thereby formed a small tailing shoal.

The south coast is bold to, and the land in a good state of cultivation as far as the Sciarra della Posta; but from thence, along the eastern shore to Point Sottofuoco, the whole presents a precipitous mass of volcanic products.

Salina.—Salina possesses three anchorages, where small vessels resort to load with the produce, but they are exposed to all but the land winds; each of the anchorages is distinguished by a church, surrounded by a number of low scattered houses.

South of the point of Lingua Marina, the water shoals to nearly a quarter of a mile out, tailing in its own direction to eight fathoms; but, from thence to Lipari, the strait is open and clear of all danger.

On the head of the Penrose shoal there are four and a quarter fathoms, and a few feet from it, fourteen to twenty-seven and thirty. It is covered with marine plants, and much resorted to by fish; the marks for it are, the church of Amalfi, immediately under the north-west peak of Salina, and Cape Castagna, the north-east point of Lipari, on with Monte Rosso.

Felicudi.—The south-east point of the island is of a tolerable height, and a conical shape, joined by a low and fertile isthmus that forms two small bays, with very steep shingly beaches; the northern of which is called Conca di Lao, and the other Cala di Speranza; the anchorages in both are very insecure.

Between the Canna rock and the island, there is sufficient water for ships to sail through; but, as there are several low rocks, the passage had better not be attempted, but in chase or other necessity.

Ustica.—The port, or cove, of Sta. Maria, is situated to the south-east. It is secure in all winds but the Scirocco; when vessels, that do not choose to ride heavily, ought to shift round to the Cala Giaconi.

On making Ustica from a distance, it has the appearance of two small islands; and, though there are banks, its approach may be considered safe on all sides except the north, where there is a dangerous shoal with only one and a half fathoms on it, and from seven to twelve adjacent; it is about a mile and a quarter from the land, and is particularly dangerous on account of the freedom with which the island has always been borrowed, from the boldness of its shores. The Diana, the Juno, and the Apollo, are three banks with deep water, the shallowist being eleven fathoms on the Diana, the position of which, and the detail of the others, will be best understood by consulting the plan.

Pantellaria.—The harbour is very convenient for their small vessels, except that a

N.W. gale sends in a disagreeable ground swell; it is formed by Points Leonardo and Santa Croce; off which large ships may anchor by bringing the castle to bear S.E., about two miles, when they will be in eighteen fathoms, sandy bottom, but further in, the ground is rocky and foul; at al events, it is best to use the chain cable. In the middle of the cove, are numerous rocks above water, allowing a passage between them and a projecting point to the east of the town, of about fifty fathoms wide, and two and a half deep; inside this is the harbour where the country craft moor. The landing-place is at a small pier under a chapel, that is just outside the castle-wall to the northward; and the place to send for pratique is in a cove at Point St. Leonardo, whither the deputies of the Sanità, (the officers of the health office,) repair to meet the boat.

Water and refreshments may be procured, but not in great plenty.

The western shores are different, as they present many landing-places, and several tolerably-wooded slopes; the bottom, however, continues nearly the same, being approachable every where by the lead, except off Point Nica, where there is a rock five fathoms under water, about a mile and a quarter to the south-west, with (like most of these lava ledges) from twenty to thirty fathoms around: it is not dangerous, except in a heavy sea, and there can be no occasion for borrowing very close on the south-east point.

Linosa.—On making Linosa from a distance, it has the appearance of two islets, from its elevated conical peak, but, on closing, the hills and valleys are raised. The approaches are bold to on all sides, carrying from twenty to ten fathoms close in, fifty to sixty at the distance of a furlong, and one hundred and fifty at the distance of less than half a mile. The south-east point is high and bluff; the south-west low and craggy; and on the western point is a small creek, under a steep cliff, where boats can land very conveniently, on a beach of fine sand. The channel from Pantellaria to Linosa, from thence to Malta, and also to Lampedusa, is without bottom at 300 fathoms.

Lampedusa.—S.W. by S. from Linosa, at the distance of twenty-four miles, lies Lampedusa, a long narrow island, trending east and west. The north-coast is very steep to, having thirty-five and forty fathoms within four hundred yards of the shore; but from the south side a bank extends several leagues, carrying from fifteen to fifty fathoms. It affords good anchorage under the island, by bringing the old tower to bear N.E. by N., when the anchor will be in seventeen or eighteen fathoms, gravelly sand; but it must be noted that there are two or three spots that rub the cable, so that if provided with an iron chain it had better be let go. If a vessel is bound into the harbour, and the wind leads her, it is advisable to anchor on the bearing mentioned, and then warp in, there not being room to work, and the rocks of the harbour having been cut to receive the fasts of small vessels, offer every facility to the carrying out of hawsers.

The harbour is a cove, in which ships of three or four hundred tons find an excellent

shelter from every wind, the most inconvenient being that from the S.S.W., which occasions a ground-swell; but though there is depth sufficient, there is scarcely room sufficient to moor a frigate, unless by fasts to the shore. The best birth is opposite the low rocky point, running into the middle of the harbour, with Wilgia Point bearing S.W.byW.; the patch of Cavullo Bianco south; and the Castle N.byE.$\frac{1}{2}$E., when the ship will be in five fathoms and a half water. There are three sandy bays, all of them shallow in shore; the landing-place is a little creek in the point, on which stand the castle, a chapel, a storehouse, and the line walls and bastions, built by Mr. Fernandez.

The west cape is a steep picturesque and perpendicular cliff, which may be rounded by ships of any size, at a furlong's distance, and the shore kept on board all the way from thence to Wilgia Point, except off the Rabbit and Coneys, an islet, and two rocks lying exactly half way between the cape and the harbour. The larger Coney being tolerably high, is soon made out; but the western one is very low: besides which, it appears, by its stratification and form, so exact a continuation of the white cliffs of Lampedusa, that it is difficult to make it out in passing. This must, therefore, be recollected in running along shore in the night, although the group is so bold that it may be brushed.

There are several wells, but the water is very indifferent; ships, therefore, in want of that article, are obliged to send to the inconvenient coves of Galera and Croce, and even there they must sometimes dig. Wood is to be procured in great plenty in the western parts, and much of it is cut and sent to Tripoli and Malta.

Lampion.—W.byN.$\frac{1}{2}$N., seven or eight miles from the west cape of Lampedusa, across a clear channel, carrying from twenty-five to forty fathoms, is an abrupt tabled rock, called Lampion. The channel between it and the coast of Africa, and also that towards Lampedusa, are quite safe, even close to. It is quite steep on its west, north, and south sides, in cliffs, of from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty feet high, shelving down on the eastern side to a low point, much frequented by seals. All sides of it are bold to, with ten to twenty fathoms close in, except at the seal-point, where a shoal tails off to about a furlong's distance; and in every other direction, from this rock towards the city of Africa and Linosa, there is a pretty even, safe bottom, of from twenty to fifty fathoms, shoaling towards the N.E. part of the bank of the Karkenna Islands, with which both Lampion and Lampedusa are connected.

Courses and distances from the principal islands, to the various ports and headlands around:

From Ustica to

	° ′	Miles.		° ′	Miles.
Cape St. Vito . .	S. 32 40 W. .	36¾	Monte Cristo . .	N. 30 52 W. .	253
Cape Carbonaro .	N. 82 18 W. .	172	Civita Vecchia .	N. 17 59 W. .	212½
Ogliastro	N. 64 54 W. .	174½	Ponza	N. 4 05 W. .	129
Bastia	N. 35 20 W. .	293	Naples	N. 21 12 E. .	136

From Alicudi to

Ustica	N. 79 32 W. .	55	Cefalù	S. 15 56 W. .	34¼
Cape St. Vito . .	S. 73 53 W. .	75½	Caronia	S. 12 41 E. .	32¾
Palermo	S. 59 21 W. .	49	Cape Orlando . .	S. 41 11 E. .	33¼
Termini	S. 36 28 W. .	44¾	Milazzo	S. 70 06 E. .	50

From Lipari to

Panaria	N. 21 02 E. .	10¾	Gioja	S. 87 09 E. .	40¼
Stromboli	N. 29 59 E. .	23	Cape Rasaculmo .	S. 69 04 E. .	28
Tropèa	N. 73 18 E. .	48¼	Milazzo	S. 46 51 E. .	17
Cape Vaticano . .	N. 78 29 E. .	45	Port Madonna . .	S. 8 25 E. .	21

From Stromboli to

Ustica	S. 87 11 W. .	102	Naples	N. 20 10 W. .	151
Cagliari	N. 85 00 W. .	287	Policastro . . .	N. 14 52 E. .	78
Bonifacio	N. 60 58 W. .	319	Amantèa	N. 66 25 E. .	47
Bastia	N. 48 14 W. .	352	Pizzo	E. 00 02 S. .	59
Elba	N. 42 39 W. .	328	Faro Point . . .	S. 34 20 E. .	39
Ponza	N. 39 46 W. .	159	Milazzo	S. 1 24 E. .	32

From Pantellaria to

Mazzara	N. 32 50 E. .	58	Lampion	S. 15 09 E. .	81
Siacca	N. 55 23 E. .	68	Kirkenis Bank . .	S. 4 13 W. .	121
Alicata	N. 83 10 E. .	109	Susa	S. 44 15 W. .	86
Cape Scalambra .	S. 87 48 E. .	130	Calibia, or Aclivia .	S. 89 32 W. .	47
Cape Passaro . .	S. 86 28 E. .	162	Cape Bon . . .	N. 70 11 W. .	41
Gozo	S. 68 46 E. .	135	Esquerques Shoal .	N. 45 25 W. .	77
Linosa	S. 38 28 E. .	75	Keith's Reef . . .	N. 31 39 W. .	68
Lampedusa . . .	S. 22 06 E. .	88	Maritimo	N. 6 25 E. .	70

From Lampedusa to

Bomba	S. 70 39 E. .	561	Jerba	S. 41 03 W. .	126
Bengazi	S. 61 16 E. .	420	Sfacus	S. 63 50 W. .	104
Mesurata	S. 34 37 E. .	227	Kirkenis Bank . .	S. 42 23 W. .	53
Tripoli	S. 10 50 E. .	158	Suza	N. 78 19 W. .	99
Zoara	S. 15 03 W. .	159	Valetta	N. 75 03 E. .	97

No. II.

POINTS DETERMINED.

In order to prevent a needless repetition, I here subjoin a Table of the principal points of the Survey, in Latitudes North, Longitudes East, of Greenwich, and difference in time from that Observatory. In this List those with an asterisk affixed were determined by the means of several observations on shore; those marked + were when the Stations bore North and South, or East and West; and those with ÷ after them, are by intermediate bearings and angles.

NORTH COAST.

PLACE.	Latitude.		Longitude.		Time.	
	° ′ ″		° ′ ″		h ′ ″ ‴	
Cape St. Vito Church	38 12 26	✳	12 45 50	÷	0 51 03 20	
Castell' a Mare Fortress	38 01 51	÷	12 52 43	+	0 51 30 52	
Cape Uomo Morto Tower	38 12 40	÷	13 06 10	÷	0 52 24 40	
Femina Island Tower	38 14 10	÷	13 12 50	÷	0 52 51 20	
Palermo Light-house	38 08 15	✳	13 21 56	✳	0 53 27 44	
Palermo Observatory	38 06 44	P	13 20 15	P	0 53 21 00	
Termini Castle	37 57 28	✳	13 42 00	✳	0 54 48 00	
Cefalù Cathedral	38 00 00	✳	14 03 57	+	0 56 15 48	
Sant' Agata Tower	38 01 30	÷	14 36 32	÷	0 58 26 8	
Cape Orlando—Castle Gate	38 07 46	✳	14 44 30	✳	0 58 58 00	
Port Madonna—Convent	38 06 45	✳	15 02 20	✳	1 00 09 20	
Milazzo Light-house	38 15 58	✳	15 14 10	✳	1 00 56 40	
Milazzo Castle	38 14 06	÷	15 14 17	÷	1 00 57 08	
Cape Rasaculmo—Telegraph	38 17 56	÷	15 31 57	÷	1 2 07 48	
Faro Light-house	38 15 50	÷	15 40 40	÷	1 2 42 40	

EAST COAST.

PLACE.	Latitude	Longitude	Time
	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	h ′ ″ ‴
Messina Light-house	38 11 30 ⁂	15 34 40 ⁂	1 2 18 40
Scaletta Fort	38 01 45 ÷	15 27 45 ÷	1 1 51 00
Point S. Alessio Barbacan	37 52 30 ÷	15 21 10 ÷	1 1 24 40
Taormina Telegraph	37 48 15 +	15 17 40 +	1 1 10 40
Summit of Ætna	37 43 31 ÷	15 00 00 ÷	1 0 00 00
Riposto Prison	37 40 10 ÷	15 12 50 ÷	1 0 51 20
Cyclop Rock (largest)	37 32 00 ÷	15 10 05 ÷	1 0 40 20
Catania Mole	37 28 20 ⁂	15 05 15 ⁂	1 0 21 00
La Bruca Castle	37 16 20 ⁂	15 11 35 ÷	1 0 46 20
Augusta Light-house	37 12 50 ⁂	15 13 15 ⁂	1 0 53 00
Magnisi Tower	37 09 25 ÷	15 13 45 ÷	1 0 55 00
Syracuse Light-house	37 02 58 ⁂	15 16 50 ⁂	1 1 7 20
Cape Morro di Porco	37 00 00 ÷	15 18 58 ÷	1 1 15 52
Lognina Tower	36 58 15 ÷	15 15 00 ÷	1 1 00 00
Avola Tonnara	36 55 10 ÷	15 08 05 ÷	1 0 32 20
Vindicari Tower	36 49 12 ⁂	15 05 20 ÷	1 0 21 20
Marzamemi Tower	36 45 30 ÷	15 06 45 ÷	1 0 27 00
Passaro island—Redoubt	36 41 30 ⁂	15 08 56 ⁂	1 0 35 44

SOUTH COAST.

Current Island	36 38 10 ÷	15 03 05 ÷	1 0 12 20
Pozzallo Fort	36 44 40 ⁂	14 50 48 ⁂	0 59 23 12
Cape Scalambra Tower	36 46 13 ⁂	14 30 15 ⁂	0 58 01 00
Scoglietti Chapel	36 52 34 ÷	14 27 25 +	0 57 49 40
Terra nova Column	37 02 54 ÷	14 15 00 ÷	0 57 00 00
Alicata Castle	37 04 03 ⁂	13 55 54 ⁂	0 55 43 36

PLACE.	Latitude	Longitude	Time
	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	h ′ ″ ‴
Palma Marina	37 08 47 ÷	13 43 11 ÷	0 54 52 44
Girgenti—Mole Light	37 15 39 ⁂	13 31 40 ⁂	0 54 06 40
Girgenti Cathedral	37 17 44 ÷	13 34 06 ÷	0 54 16 24
Siculiana Church	37 19 50 ÷	13 25 28 ÷	0 53 41 52
Cape Bianco—Turret	37 22 25 +	13 16 27 ÷	0 53 05 48
Sciacca—Castle Peralta	37 29 50 ⁂	13 04 46 ⁂	0 52 19 04
Cape St. Marco—Tower Battery	37 29 15 ÷	13 00 20 ÷	0 52 01 20
Selinuntum—Ruins of Large Temple	37 36 14 ⁂	12 46 32 ÷	0 51 06 08
WEST COAST.			
Cape Granitola	37 33 57 ⁂	12 36 39 +	0 50 26 36
Mazzara Citadel	37 39 56 ⁂	12 33 59 ⁂	0 50 15 56
Marsala—Cape Boeo	37 48 10 ⁂	12 25 10 ⁂	0 49 40 40
St. Pantaleo—Ruins of Motya	37 52 54 ÷	12 28 14 ÷	0 49 52 56
Trapani—Colombara Light	38 01 53 ⁂	12 30 18 ⁂	0 50 01 12
M. St. Julian's—Saracenic Tower	38 02 58 ÷	12 37 05 ÷	0 50 28 20
Cape Cofano	38 07 21 +	12 42 48 +	0 50 51 12
SICILIAN ISLANDS.			
Stromboli—St. Bartolo Church	38 48 12 ⁂	15 13 10 ⁂	1 0 52 40
Basiluzza—the Ruin	38 39 50 ÷	15 07 54 ÷	1 0 31 36
Panaria—Port Castello	38 37 40 ⁂	15 02 55 ⁂	1 0 11 40
Lipari Castle	38 27 56 ⁂	14 57 50 ⁂	0 59 51 40
Vulcano—the Sulphur Works	38 23 19 ÷	14 55 56 ÷	0 59 43 44
Salina—Amalfi Church	38 35 40 ÷	14 47 35 ÷	0 59 10 20
Felicudi Church	38 34 05 ⁂	14 29 37 ÷	0 57 58 28

PLACE.	Latitude	Longitude	Time
	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	h ′ ″
Alicudi Church	38 32 41 +	14 16 30 ÷	0 57 06 00
Ustica—Falconara Fort	38 43 17 ⁂	13 11 10 ⁂	0 52 44 40
Maritimo Castle	38 01 10 ⁂	12 03 55 ⁂	0 48 15 40
Levanso Guard-house	38 01 38 ÷	12 20 29 ÷	0 49 21 56
Favignana—St. Catherine's Castle	37 56 36 ÷	12 17 45 ÷	0 49 11 00
Pantellaria—The Prison Fort	36 51 15 ⁂	11 54 29 ⁂	0 47 37 56
Linosa—Landing Cove	35 51 50 ⁂	12 52 09 +	0 47 28 36
Lampedusa Castle	35 29 19 ⁂	12 35 10 ⁂	0 50 20 40
Lampion Rock	35 32 47 ⁂	12 19 50 ÷	0 49 19 20

No. III.—MAGNETIC VARIATIONS.

Mean of the Observations of 1814 and 1815, Westerly.

	°	′	″		°	′	″
Palermo	18	45	20	Alicata	16	58	25
Cefalù	18	40	12	Girgenti	17	33	17
Olivieri	18	10	35	Sciacca	17	30	41
Milazzo	18	38	40	Mazzara	17	37	20
Messina	18	33	11	S. Pantaleo	18	00	00
Catania	18	05	00	Maritimo	17	53	11
Augusta	17	40	22	Lipari	19	00	40
Syracuse	17	45	15	Ustica	18	57	10
Vindicari	16	40	30	Pantellaria	17	52	00
Cape Passaro	16	24	00	Lampedusa	17	50	00

No. IV.

HEIGHT OF THE PRINCIPAL MOUNTAINS OF SICILY ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SEA.

MOUNT ÆTNA.

	Feet		Feet
The Summit	10,874	The Goat's Cavern	5362
Foot of the Cone	9760	Angelo, the Herdsman's Cottage	4205
The English House	9592	Nicolosi Convent	2449
Philosopher's Tower	9467	Lingua-grossa	1725
Bishop's Snow Stores	7410	Caltabiano Station	371
Highest part of the Woody Region	6279	Catania Station	47

OTHER STATIONS.

	Feet		Feet
Calatabellata, highest Peak of the range	3690	Monte Lauro, near Buccheri	2404
Cuippo, a Peak of Monte Cuccio	3329	Maritimo, Summit	2376
Monte Cuccio, near Palermo	3229	Tricala, Peak of the Calatabellata range	2316
Monte Scuderi, Neptunian Range	3190	Monte Bonifacio, near Alcamo	2213
Dinnamare, over Messina	3112	Pantellaria, Summit	2213
Montagnuolo of Felicuri	3041	Mount St. Julian, near Trapani	2184
Monte Venerata, near Taormina	2925	Monte Schicciola, at Stomboli	2171
Conical Peak of Montesori	2873	Meraglia Peak, near Palermo	2145
Monte Rosso, near Buscemi	2791	Mount St. Severo, near Caronia	2071
Torretta Peak, Vale of Palermo	2748	Mount Gibel Rosso, Vale of Palermo	1968
Monte Griffone, near Palermo	2679	Mount Pellegrino Telegraph, Palermo	1955
Mount St. Michael, or Calogero, near Termini	2671	Maritimo Telegraph	1945
Castellaccio, a Ruin above Monreale	2481	Mount Traversa, near Trabia	1932

	Feet
Capo di Gallo, Palermo	1692
St. Martino Convent, near Palermo	1659
Mount St. Giorgio, Calatabellata	1631
Monte Albano, near Noara	1587
Mola Village, above Taormina	1585
Highest of the Gibel Manna Hills	1519
Mount Ospedale, near Taormina	1487
Pietra del Bovaro, Parco	1442
Batter d'Occhio, near Taormina	1346
Moorish Castle of Taormina	1305
Mount Rufuliata, near Palermo	1290
St. Catherine's Castle, Favignana	1249
Citadel of Cocalus, at Girgenti	1240
Parco Monastery	1115
Catafano, near Bagaria	1095
Convent of St. Anna, under Eryx	1046
Mount Calogero, Sciaca	1035
Mount St. Angelo, Lipari	990
Ancient Theatre, at Taormina	847
Cappella della Grazia, Floridia	760
Convent of Tyndaris	651
Vallata della Fossa, Modica	620
Linosa, highest Peak	522
Bocca di Falco, Palermo	430
Patti Telegraph	347
Castle of Milazzo	320
Pietra Canna, near Felicudi	286
Cupola of Palermo Cathedral	272
Station Cottage, Savoca	202
Augusta Light-house	57

No. V.

A STATISTICAL TABLE OF SICILY.

I HAVE been at considerable labour in endeavouring to procure as exact a detail of the population as possible; and for this purpose, besides continued personal inquiry, I have been favoured with an examination of numerous public returns; from a comparison of these, with the result of the measures of 1812, a year destined to be memorable in Sicilian annals, it appears to be rapidly on the increase, the medium estimate being 1,645,000 souls. The principal object of this Table is, to point out all the places where Mal' aria may be expected, and by attending to which, Travellers may often avoid the danger.

Before entering on the Statistical Table, it may interest many to see, from authentic and official documents, the form of the reviviscent Parliament of the epoch above-mentioned, as it presents a tolerably-correct picture of the scale of the population, from the number of representatives; and its ordinances and mode of election are very admirably suited to Sicily.

The Sicilian Constitution, as decreed in 1812, is founded on the principle of separating the legislative, executive, and judicial powers; assigning the first to the parliament, the second to the king and his ministers, and the third, which is independent of the two others, to judges and magistrates. The parliament to be composed of two houses, instead of three as theretofore; *viz.*, a house of peers and a house of commons.

The house of peers is composed of the peers spiritual and temporal, who have hitherto enjoyed the right of a seat in parliament; but each is limited to a single vote, and not allowed, as formerly, to engross a number of votes, regulated only by the fiefs in his possession. The temporal peerage can only be transmitted by inheritance, and must be considered as inalienable. Though the king may make new temporal peers when he pleases, provided they are taken from that class of persons possessing a fief, to which is annexed a title, and of a net annual revenue of six thousand ounces. Peers, temporal and spiritual, may vote by proxy.

The house of commons is composed, 1st, of the representatives of the whole population of the kingdom, without distinction, whether a population belonging to the barons, or to the royal demesnes; for this purpose the whole island is divided into twenty-three districts, *viz.*, Messina, Castro Reale, Patti, Mistretta, Cefalù, Termini, Palermo, Alcamo, Trapani, Mazzara, Sciacca, Bivona, Girgenti, Terranova, Modica, Noto, Syracuse, Catania, Nicosia,

Caltagirone, Piazza, Caltanisetta, and Corleone, each of which sends two representatives. 2dly, Of the representatives, of the cities; *viz.*, those cities and towns which have at least eighteen thousand inhabitants, send two; Palermo six; Messina three; and Catania three; all the other cities and towns, which have from six thousand to eighteen thousand inhabitants, send one representative. The towns with less, are comprised in the districts; moreover, the towns which formerly had a vote, retain it as long as their population shall be above two thousand. 3dly, Of representatives of the universities; *viz.*, for that of Palermo two, one of them being on account of the right of suffrage in the house of peers, formerly belonging to its abbey, but which it has now lost; the university of Catania sends one.

The qualification for voting for a district representative, is the life-possession of actual property to the annual value of eighteen ounces, at least, in the same district; for the city of Palermo, property of the annual value of fifty ounces. The qualification for all other cities and towns, is property of the annual value of eighteen ounces, in the same city or town; or the possession for life of a public office in the place of election, of the annual income of fifty ounces; or the being a consul, and sworn master of any corporation or trade, with an annual revenue of nine ounces.

No peer, public functionary, or other individual dependent on the crown, can interfere in the election of the commons, under pain of rendering the election void, and paying a fine of two hundred ounces. Candidates are prohibited from giving entertainments, or any gratifications whatever, to the electors, under pain of two hundred ounces fine, and exclusion from the election. No military body can be stationed in the place where the election takes place: two days before its commencement, the ordinary garrison shall remove to the distance of two miles from the place for the assembling of the electors, leaving merely the number of men necessary for the daily routine of duty, and they shall not return until two days after the close of the elections.

No foreigner, of whatever nation, can be returned as a member of the house of commons; nor individuals, under twenty years of age, members of the judicial order, persons in subaltern offices under government, or those enjoying a royal pension. Persons implicated in any criminal trial, with all debtors of the state, are incapable of being elected; and he who accepts an office to which the king has the appointment, loses his place in the house of commons, even when the office is of a military nature. No individual can be representative of a district, unless he possesses in Sicily, an annual revenue from real property, of three hundred ounces, at least; or a representative of a town or university, if his annual revenue is less than an hundred and fifty ounces. However, the latter condition is not exacted from those who fill a professor's chair.

The duration of each parliament is to be four years. The king opens and prorogues the session of parliament, either in person or by commission. No distinction of rank is observed in either house. No member of the house of commons can vote by proxy. The king names the president of the house of peers; but the house of commons chooses its own. A proposition for a tax can emanate only from the house of commons; in like manner, a

proposition, which in its tendency may be injurious to the peerage, can only emanate from the house of peers. The king cannot take cognizance of the bills under consideration, nor interfere in the discussions of the parliament. Nor can one house interfere with the deliberations of the other; but both may appoint committees, for the purpose of coming to a mutual understanding upon disputed points. The houses cannot deliberate, if there are not, at least, thirty members present in the house of peers, and sixty in that of the commons; the president can only vote when the numbers are equally divided.

One of the ordinances seems to be peculiarly pointed: No person of the judicial order can proceed juridically against a member of either house, on account of what he has said or done in parliament, under pain of being deprived of his office, banished for ten years to one of the islands, and to paying a fine of one thousand ounces!

The following is a correct view of the composition of the Sicilian parliaments; in which, the temporal peers marked with a note of interrogation, instead of a number, were not included in the first list, but were expected to be called upon, in virtue of the power given the king, as before mentioned. It may amuse a British reader to observe so many pompous titles, among a people not amounting to two millions; but he will be still more surprised, when he is given to understand that the list contains little more than one-third of their nobles!

SPIRITUAL PEERS, 61, *viz.*,

1. Archbishop of Palermo.
2. Archbishop of Messina.
3. Archbishop of Monreale.
1. Bishop of Catania.
2. Bishop of Syracuse.
3. Bishop of Girgenti.
4. Bishop of Patti.
5. Bishop of Cefalù.
6. Bishop of Mazzara.
7. Bishop of Lipari.
1. Archimandrite of S. Salvatore, of Messina.
1. Grand Prior of S. Giovanni, of Messina.
1. Commander of the Sacra Magione, at Palermo.
1. Preceptor of San Calogero.
1. Abbot of Santa Lucia.
2. Abbot of Santa Maria del Parco.
3. Abbot of the Santo Spirito.
4. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Maniaci.
5. Abbot of Sant' Angelo of Brolo.
6. Abbot of S.S. Pietro and Paolo, of Itála.
7. Abbot of San Giovanni, of the Hermits.
8. Abbot of Santa Maria, la Novara.
9. Abbot of Santa Maria della Grotta.
10. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Roccamadoro.
11. Abbot of S.S. Pietro and Paolo, of Forza d' Agrò.
12. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Gala.
13. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Mandanici.
14. Abbot of San Pantaleone.
15. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Mili.
16. Abbot of San Michele, of Troina.
17. Abbot of San Gregorio, of Gibiso.
18. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Roccadia.
19. Abbot of San Filippo, il Grande.
20. Abbot of San Filippo, of Fragala.
21. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Bordonaro.
22. Abbot of San Nicolo, of la Fica.
23. Abbot of the Santo Spirito, of Caltanisetta.
24. Abbot of San Nicandro.
25. Abbot of Santa Caterina, of Linguagrossa.
26. Abbot of Santa Lucia, of Noto.
27. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Terrana.
28. Abbot of Santa Maria, delle Giummare.
29. Abbot of Santa Maria, di Nuova luce.
30. Abbot of Santa Maria, of the plain of Capizzi.
31. Abbot of San Martino, della Scala.
32. Abbot of San Placido, of Messina.

33. Abbot of San Nicolò, l'Arena.
34. Abbot of Gangi, il Vecchio.
35. Abbot of Santa Maria, of Pedali.
36. Abbot of the S.S. Trinità, of Castiglione.
37. Abbot of Santa Maria, la Portella.
38. Abbot of Santa Maria, dell' Arco.
39. Abbot of Sant' Anastasia.
40. Abbot of Santa Maria, del Fundro.
41. Abbot of San Filippo, of Santa Lucia.
1. Prior of Sant' Andrèa, of Piazza.
2. Prior of Santa Croce, of Messina.
3. Prior of the benefice of S. Matteo, la Gloria, of Messina.
4. Prior of San Giacomo, d' Altopasso, of Naro.
5. Prior of Santa Maria la Nuova, of Monreale.
6. Prior of the S.S. Trinità, of Delia.

TEMPORAL PEERS, 171, *viz.*,

1. Prince of Butera.
2. Prince of Castel Vetrano.
3. Prince of Paternò.
4. Prince of Castel Buono.
5. Prince of Trabia.
6. Prince of Castiglione.
7. Prince of Villa Franca.
8. Prince of Paceco.
9. Prince of Rocca Fiorita.
10. Prince of Scaletta.
11. Prince of Maletto.
12. Prince of Pantellaria.
13. Prince of Palazzolo.
14. Prince of Leonforte.
15. Prince of Carini.
16. Prince of Castel Nuovo.
17. Prince of Campo Franco.
18. Prince of Aragona.
19. Prince of Scordia.
20. Prince of Valguarnera.
21. Prince of Resuttano.
22. Prince of Partanna.
23. Prince of Malvagna.
24. Prince of Calvarusa.
25. Prince of Monforte.
26. Prince of Palagonia.
27. Prince of Cassaro.
28. Prince of Biscari.
29. Prince of Mezzojuso.
30. Prince of Montevago.
31. Prince of Mirto.
32. Prince of Galati.
33. Prince of Raffadali.
34. Prince of Militello.
35. Prince of Cerami.
36. Prince of Campo Fiorito.
37. Prince of Aci.
38. Prince of Sciara.
39. Prince of S. Antonino.
40. Prince of Comitini.
41. Prince of Furnari.
42. Prince of Rosolini.
43. Prince of Spadafora.
44. Prince of Rammacca.
45. Prince of S. Teodoro.
46. Prince of Belmonte.
47. Prince of Ficarazzi.
48. Prince of Mola.
49. Prince of Campo Reale.
50. Prince of Castel Forte.
? Prince of Villadorata.
? Prince of Torremuzza.
? Prince of Cutó.
? Prince of Barra Franca.
? Prince of Lampedusa.
? Prince of Sta. Margarita.
? Prince of Gravina.
? Prince of Giardinelli.
? Prince of Roboldoni.
? Prince of Monte Catena.
? Prince of Lardaria.
? Prince of Ventimiglia.
? Prince of Petrulla.
? Prince of Cattolica.
? Prince of Villarmosa.
1. Duke of Bivona.
2. Duke of Castro Filippo.
3. Duke of Palma.
4. Duke of Reitano.
5. Duke of Montagna Reale.
6. Duke of Piraino.
7. Duke of Serra di Falco.
8. Duke of Sperlinga.
9. Duke of Gualtieri.
10. Duke of Misterbianco.
11. Duke of Cesarò.
12. Duke of Carcaci.
13. Duke of Castelluccio.
14. Duke of Aquaviva.
15. Duke of Cefalà.
16. Duke of Villarosa.
17. Duke of Sorrentino.
18. Duke of Vatticani.
19. Duke of Bronte.
? Duke of Saponara.
? Duke of Lucchesi.
? Duke of San Giorgio.
? Duke of Anjou.
? Duke of Monteleone.
? Duke of San Giovanni.
? Duke of Camastro.
? Duke of Belviso.
1. Marquis of Marineo.
2. Marquis of Giarratana.
3. Marquis of Sambuca.
4. Marquis of Monte Maggiore.
5. Marquis of Santa Croce.
6. Marquis of Sortino.
7. Marquis of Tortorici.
8. Marquis della Motta.
9. Marquis of Roccalumera.
10. Marquis of San Cataldo.

11. Marquis of Ogliastro.
12. Marquis of Lucca.
13. Marquis of Capizzi.
14. Marquis of Mongiuffo.
15. Marquis of Campo Rotondo.
16. Marquis of Alimena.
17. Marquis of Cerda.
18. Marquis delli Bagni.
19. Marquis of S. Ferdinando.
20. Marquis of Raddusa.
? Marquis of Gargallo.
? Marquis of Cardillo.
? Marquis of San Giuliano.
? Marquis of San Gregorio.
? Marquis of Frangipani.
? Marquis of Montebello.
? Marquis of Artale.
? Marquis of Villabianca.
? Marquis of Palermo.
? Marquis of Cugina.
1. Count of Modica.
2. Count of Naso.
? Count of Gazziri.
? Count of Santo Marco.
? Count of Grammonte.
? Count of Grignone.
? Count of Caltanisetta.
1. Baron of Ficara.
2. Baron of Castania.
3. Baron of S. Stefano di Mistretta.
4. Baron of Tripi.
5. Baron of Longi.
6. Baron of Pettineo.
7. Baron of Prizzi.
8. Baron delli Martini.
9. Baron of Rocca.
10. Baron of Godrano.
11. Baron of Vita.
12. Baron of Tusa.
13. Baron of San Carlo.
14. Baron of Vallalunga.
15. Baron of Caggi.
16. Baron of Baucina.
17. Baron of Ferla.
18. Baron of Gallo-d'oro.
19. Baron of Altariva.
20. Baron of Villa-d'oro.
21. Baron of Campo Bello.
22. Baron of Catena Nuova.
23. Baron of Villasmundo.
24. Baron of Castel Normando.
25. Baron of Giardinello.
26. Baron of Pachino.
27. Baron of S. Pietro Clarenza.
28. Baron of Alminusa.
29. Baron of Villalba.
30. Baron of S. Cono.
31. Baron of Villaura.
32. Baron of Casalnuovo.
33. Baron of S. Stefano di Briga.
34. Baron of Belvedere.
35. Baron of Priolo.
? Baron of S. Alessio.
? Baron of Beremuta.
? Baron of Linguagrossa.
? Baron of Pedagaci.
? Baron of Stremolo.
? Baron of Bosco.
? Baron of Bruca.

THE COMMONS, 154, *viz.*,

1. Aci Reale.
1. Adernò.
1. Augusta.
1. Alcamo.
1. Aragona.
1. Avola.
1. Bisacquino.
1. Bronte.
1. Caccamo.
1. Calascibetta.
1. Calatafimi.
1. Caltagirone.
1. Caltanisetta.
1. Cannicatti.
1. Carini.
1. Castelbuono.
1. Castel a mare.
1. Castel Vetrano.
1. Castro Giovanni.
1. Castro nuovo.
1. Castro reale.
1. S. Cataldo.
3. Catania.
1. Catania University.
1. Cattolica.
1. Cefalù.
1. Chiaramonte.
1. Chiusa.
1. Ciminna.
1. Comiso.
1. Corleone.
46. Districts, at 2 each.
1. Favara.
1. S. Filippo d' Argirò.
1. Girgenti.
1. Grammichele.
1. Lentini.
1. Leonforte.
1. Licata.
1. Licodia.
1. Linguagrossa.
1. Lipari.
1. Santa Lucia.
1. Santa Margherita.
1. Marineo.
2. Marsala.
1. Mascali.
1. Mazzara.
1. Mazarino.
1. Menfi.
3. Messina.
1. Milazzo.
1. Militello. V. Noto.
1. Mineo.
1. Mistretta.
1. Modica.
1. Monte S. Giuliano.
1. Monreale.
1. Mussomeli.
1. Naro.
1. Nicosia.
1. Niscemi.
1. Noto.
1. Palazzolo.
6. Palermo.
2. Palermo University.
1. Partanna.
1. Partenico.
1. Paternò.
1. Patti.
1. Petralia-sottana.
1. Piazza.
1. Pietraperzia.
1. Polizzi.
1. Pozzo di Gotto.
1. Prizzi.

1. Regalmuto.	1. Sambuca.	1. Sutera.	1. Tortorici.
1. Ragusa.	1. Sciacca.	1. Syracuse.	2. Trapani.
1. Randazzo.	1. Scicli.	1. Taormina.	1. Troina.
1. Rometta.	1. Sortino.	1. Termini.	1. Vittoria.
1. Salemi.	1. Spaccaforno.	1. Terranova.	1. Vizzini.

STATISTICS.

Before commencing this table, it may be proper to state, that the suffrage of custom has designated the principal cities of Sicily with an agnomen, or epithet, illustrative of their consideration; thus:—

Palermo	la Felice	The happy.
Messina	la Nobile	The noble.
Catania	l' Illustre	The illustrious.
Troina	l' Antichissima	The most ancient.
Syracuse	la Fedele	The faithful.
Girgenti	la Magnifica	The magnificent.
Polizzi	la Generosa	The generous.
Patti	la Magnanima	The magnanimous.
Cefalù	la Graziosa	The graceful.
Noto	l' Ingegnosa	The ingenious.
Caltagirone	l' Aggradita	The accepted.
Marsala	l' Antica	The ancient.
Termini	la Splendida	The splendid.
Castro Giovanni	l' Insuperabile	The insuperable.
Alicata	l' Amata	The beloved.
Taormina	la Riguardevole	The worthy.

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.	
Aci bonaccorso. .	village	Demone	640	salubrious	On the declivity of mount Ætna; fruitful .	108
Aci castello . . .	town	Demone	700	wholesome	On the shore near the Cyclopum Scopuli .	142
Aci catena . . .	town	Demone	4400	wholesome	On a fertile plain, near the Ionian Sea . .	112
Aci reale . . .	city	Demone	14000	salubrious	On a cliff of Mount Ætna overhanging the Sea	138
Aci marina . . .	village	Demone	350	salubrious	At the bottom of the Scala of Aci	139
Aci Sant' Antonio	town	Demone	4200	wholesome	In a delightful plain of decomposed lavas . .	110
Aci San Filippo .	town	Demone	4700	wholesome	On the slope of a gentle eminence	112
Aci Santa Lucia .	village	Demone	400	wholesome	On a plain between Aci reale and Aci catena	113
Adernò	town	Demone	7000	bad	Among the ruins of Hadranum, on Mount Ætna	113
Agnuni	village	Noto	160	very bad	At the south-east end of the plain of Catania	129
Aidone	town	Noto	3800	wholesome	On a high inland hill; country fertile . . .	82
Alcamo	city	Mazzara	12000	healthy	In a beautiful situation under Mount Bonifato	30
Alcara di fredi . .	town	Mazzara	5090	wholesome	On an eminence in a well-cultivated district .	30
Alcara di fusi . .	town	Demone	1860	bad	In an irrigated valley, among mountains . .	100

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Alcorati	hamlet	Demone	50	indifferent	On the east coast near Riposto 151
Alessandria . . .	town	Mazzara	3200	tolerable	On a descent, in a fruitful valley 50
Alì	town	Demone	1400	salubrious	On the side of Mount Scuderi 200
Alì marina di . .	village	Demone	450	healthy	Among the mineral waters, under Alì . . 202
Alia	town	Mazzara	3400	good	On a rocky mountain, near a pass 47
Alicata	city	Mazzara	11000	tolerable	Between Mount Ecnomus and the River Salso 96
Alicudi	island	Lipari	260	excellent	In the Tyrrhenian Sea.
Alimena	town	Demone	3400	wholesome	On the summit of a high mountain 60
Alminusa . . .	village	Mazzara	860	salubrious	Finely situated on the side of a hill 35
Altavilla	town	Mazzara	1300	good	On a high and beautiful hill, near the sea . . 14
Antillo	village	Demone	240	temperate	On a height, near the Ionian Sea 200
Aquaficara . . .	village	Demone	420	middling	In a fruitful valley, on the north coast . . 148
Aqua viva . . .	town	Mazzara	1700	wholesome	On the side of a high inland hill 52
Aqua Ladrone . .	hamlet	Demone	160	tolerable	On the sea-shore, near Cape Rasaculmo . 161
Aragona	town	Mazzara	6000	salubrious	On the slope of a fine hill, in a wild country . 70
Artelia	village	Demone	550	tolerable	In a narrow valley between mountains . . 167
Assaro	town	Noto	2500	temperate	On the high mountain once called Assorus . 190
Augusta	city	Noto	8000	indifferent	On a peninsula on the Ionian Sea . . . 130
Avola	city	Noto	7000	damp	On the rising of a delicious plain . . . 150
Bagaria	district	Mazzara	6000	salubrious	In a spacious plain, half a mile from the sea . 9
Bagni	town	Noto	2300	wholesome	On the side of a mountain; town decaying . 170
Barcellona . . .	village	Demone	2500	temperate	In a superb plain; roads mostly good . . 161
Barrafranca . . .	town	Noto	6600	wholesome	On a gentle hill, where was formerly Convicinium 130
Bavuso	village	Demone	700	bad	On a tabled hill; roads tolerable 184
Belmonte . . .	town	Mazzara	950	good	Partly in a plain, and partly on a declivity . 7
Belpasso	town	Demone	2500	wholesome	Among the lavas, on the side of Mount Ætna . 120
Belvedere . . .	village	Noto	400	tolerable	Between the hilly fortresses of Euryalus . 155
Biancavilla . . .	town	Demone	6000	wholesome	Well situated on the side of Mount Ætna . 126
Bifara	village	Mazzara	240	bad	In a perfect plain near Alicata 90
Bifia	village	Demone	700	salubrious	On the side of a mountain, four miles inland . 148
Biscari	town	Noto	3500	bad	On a plain site, once called Derillum . . . 124
Bivona	town	Mazzara	500	wholesome	On an inclined, rocky, inland plain . . . 50
Bocca di falco . .	village	Mazzara	2700	moist	In the Conca d'oro, or vale of Palermo . . . 3
Bocina	town	Mazzara	2000	bad	On a hill, in a fruitful neighbourhood . . . 22
Bonpenziere . .	village	Mazzara	550	good	On a tolerable inland height 60
Bordonaro . . .	village	Demone	1100	wholesome	At the foot of the Neptunian mountains . 172
Briga	village	Demone	300	bad	Among the mountains of the Neptunian range 163
Brolo	town	Demone	1600	bad	At the confluence of two fiumaras 101
Bronte	town	Demone	9400	wholesome	On the west side of Mount Ætna 104
Bruca	village	Noto	170	bad	On the shore of the Ionian Sea 140
Buccheri	town	Noto	3000	wholesome	On a hill, sixteen miles from the Ionian coast . 120

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Burghetta . . .	town	Mazzara	3600	salubrious	On the descent of a hill, near Partenico . . 16
Burgio	town	Mazzara	4500	wholesome	On a high and rugged mountain 48
Busaquino . . .	city	Mazzara	8100	good	In the middle of a mountainous district . . 36
Buscremi	town	Noto	3000	wholesome	On a gentle hill, in a fine country 160
Butera	city	Noto	5000	wholesome	On the ridge of a rocky mountain 100
Caccamo . . .	town	Mazzara	6400	salubrious	On a rough mountain, three miles inland . . 24
Cacimeni . . .	village	Mazzara	190	healthy	On the declivity of Mount San Giuliano . . 62
Calamonaci . . .	village	Mazzara	700	bad	In a plain, in many places swampy 50
Calascibetta . . .	town	Noto	4780	good	On the top of a defile, in the mountains . . 76
Calatabiano . . .	town	Demone	1700	damp	A little inland, on the side of Mount Ætna . 180
Calatafimi . . .	town	Mazzara	9000	middling	Between two hills, in a corn country . . . 36
Calatamita . . .	village	Demone	300	good	On a hill, two miles from the Tyrrhenian sea . 148
Calatabellota . .	town	Mazzara	4600	wholesome	On a high and steep mountain, in a pass . . 50
Caltagirone . . .	city	Noto	20000	wholesome	In a commanding situation on a rocky mountain 100
Caltanisetta . . .	city	Mazzara	16000	healthy	On a fine plain; much linen made 70
Calvaruso . . .	village	Demone	800	healthy	On the side of an Alpine mountain 160
Caltavutura . . .	town	Mazzara	3200	bad	In a small valley among mountains 42
Camarata . . .	town	Demone	4600	salubrious	On the side of a hill, near mineral salt works . 41
Camari inferiore . .	village	Demone	1200	temperate	In a small valley near Messina 201
Camari superiore .	village	Demone	120	wholesome	In a plain, in a valley among the mountains . 200
Camastra . . .	village	Mazzara	800	bad	On a humid plain on the south coast . . . 78
Campobello . . .	town	Mazzara	4600	wholesome	On a flat, on a hill, near Alicata 80
Campo bello . .	town	Mazzara	2000	bad	In a large and fertile plain, near Mazzara . . 60
Campo felice . .	village	Mazzara	160	execrable	Among the rice grounds of Fuime Grande . . 42
Campo franco . .	town	Mazzara	2000	bad	On an inland uneven declivity 54
Campo reale . .	town	Mazzara	1300	good	In a tolerable situation, on a hill 26
Campo rotondo .	village	Demone	300	wholesome	On the declivity of Mount Ætna 106
Cannicati . . .	town	Mazzara	15000	wholesome	Beautifully situated on the side of a mountain 72
Cannistra . . .	village	Demone	350	good	On a branch of the Neptunian range 147
Capaci	town	Mazzara	3000	salubrious	On a hill over the Pianura di Campo Pietro . 12
Capizzi	town	Demone	3400	wholesome	On a mountain; the site of Capitium 93
Capo Passaro . .	island	Noto	70	healthy	A fortress on the south-east end of Sicily . . 173
Capo Passaro . .	village	Noto	280	tolerable	A tonnara, opposite Passaro island . . . 170
Capri	village	Demone	500	good	In a valley among the mountains 100
Carcaci	village	Demone	240	bad	In a valley with swampy grounds 99
Carini	town	Mazzara	7600	salubrious	On a beautiful eminence over a plain . . . 18
Carlentini . . .	town	Noto	2000	indifferent	On a high hill, commanding Lentini 120
Caronia	town	Demone	2200	bad	In the skirts of a large wood; on a rugged hill 60
Casalnuovo . . .	town	Demone	1200	wholesome	On an eminence, four miles from the Tyrrhenian sea 160
Casal vecchio . .	village	Demone	2000	wholesome	On the side of a mountain toward the Ionian sea 130
Cassaro	town	Noto	2000	healthy	On a hill in a fine neighbourhood 129

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Castagna . . .	town	Demone	1800	bad	Half way up the side of a northern mountain . 100
Castagna . . .	village	Demone	2100	wholesome	In a valley, near Messina 200
Castel buono . .	town	Demone	7000	wholesome	On the side of the Madonia mountains . . 54
Castel' a mare . .	town	Mazzara	5000	healthy	Jutting out into the gulf of the same name . 33
Castel dell' accia .	village	Mazzara	900	temperate	In a plain on the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea 10
Castelluccio . . .	town	Demone	1800	wholesome	In a fine and fertile little valley 80
Castelluccio . . .	village	Noto	300	indifferent	Enveloped in a square wall, on point La Marza 170
Castel termine . .	town	Mazzara	4600	salubrious	On the side of one of the hills of Mount Pecoraro 54
Caltel Vetrano . .	city	Mazzara	14500	healthy	On an eminence commanding an extensive plain 50
Castiglione . . .	town	Demone	3500	salubrious	On one of the rocky summits of Ætna . . . 110
Castro Filippo . .	town	Mazzara	1460	wholesome	On a hill, ten miles from the African sea . . 72
Castro Giovanni .	city	Noto	11000	salubrious	On the high mountain of Enna, in the centre of Sicily 82
Castronuovo . .	town	Mazzara	4700	salubrious	Near quarries of fine yellow marble, and on a mountain 40
Castrorao . . .	village	Demone	200	bad	In a plain, among several hills 200
Castro reale . .	city	Demone	11000	salubrious	On a triangular and rocky mountain . . . 150
Catania	city	De.& Not	74000	wholesome	At the south-eastern base of Mount Ætna . 120
Cataratti . . .	village	Demone	350	temperate	In a valley of the Neptunian mountains . . 200
Catena nuova . .	village	Demone	700	humid	In a plain watered by the river Dittaino . . 105
Cattolica . . .	town	Mazzara	7200	temperate	On the side of a hill on the south shores . . 64
Cefalà	town	Demone	2100	temperate	Among inland heights, with mineral baths . 21
Cefalù	city	Demone	9000	wholesome	Under a conic mountain, on the Tyrrhenian Sea 48
Centineo . . .	village	Demone	300	good	On the side of a hill, about four miles inland . 140
Centorbi . . .	town	Demone	4500	wholesome	On a rugged hill with five peaks, compared to a starfish 105
Cerami	town	Demone	3400	wholesome	On a hill of the Madonia branches 90
Cerda	town	Mazzara	1500	tolerable	In a fertile and well-cultivated valley . . . 33
Cesarò	town	Demone	3000	wholesome	On a rocky and commanding eminence . . 97
Chiaramonte . .	town	Noto	7000	salubrious	Superbly situated on a high mountain . . 120
Chiusa	town	Mazzara	5000	wholesome	On the side of a fine hill 36
Chianciana . . .	town	Mazzara	2700	wholesome	On a hill about ten miles from the African Sea 54
Ciminna	town	Mazzara	6000	bad	On the side of a mountain, on the north coast . 24
Cinisi	town	Mazzara	3400	wholesome	In a fine plain under Mount Dell Ursa . . . 25
Colli	village	Mazzara	170	salubrious	On a delightful eminence of the vale of Palermo 2
Collesano . . .	town	Demone	2800	wholesome	On the side of the Madonia mountains . . . 42
Comiso	town	Noto	10000	good	At the foot of a rocky mountain of Modica . . 120
Comitini	town	Mazzara	1100	temperate	On the side of a southern mountain . . . 66
Condro	village	Demone	800	bad	In the centre of a valley, on the north coast . 150
Contessa . . .	town	Mazzara	2500	wholesome	At the foot of Mount Calatamaura 32
Contessa . . .	village	Demone	1000	tolerable	On a beautiful plain, under Mount Dinnamare 200
Corleone . . .	city	Mazzara	12000	wholesome	On the declivity of a mountain, bearing a fine forest 24
Cumia inferiore .	village	Demone	250	tolerable	In a valley among gentle hills 200
Cumia superiore .	village	Demone	300	wholesome	On a high hill of the Pelorian range 201

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Curcuraci . . .	village	Demone	1000	tolerable	On a declivity of the Pelorian range . . . 200
Delia	town	Mazzara	2300	good	Part on a hill, and part on a plain 70
Diana	village	Mazzara	650	wholesome	On a hill of Cefalù, once a Saracenic post . . 20
Divieto	village	Demone	200	very bad	On a plain of the Tyrrhenian shore 180
Drago	village	Demone	200	bad	On a swampy plain, near Cape Orlando . . 116
Falcona	village	Demone	250	very bad	In the plain of Olivieri 153
Faro inferiore . .	village	Demone	950	indifferent	On the sandy point, once called Pelorus . . 198
Faro superiore . .	village	Demone	2000	tolerable	Over the point, on the fall of the Pelorian range 200
Fagallo	village	Noto	120	indifferent	On the banks of the river Busaidone . . . 137
Favara	town	Mazzara	7500	wholesome	On the declivity of one of the southern hills . 72
Favignana . . .	island	Mazzara	2300	healthy	One of the Ægades, in the African sea.
Ferla	town	Noto	3500	wholesome	On a gentle hill, once called Ferula . . . 110
Ficarazzi . . .	town	Mazzara	2400	bad	On a humid plain 6
Ficarra	town	Demone	1800	wholesome	On a high mountain, on the north coast . . 120
Felicudi	island	Lipari	800	salubrious	In the Tyrrhenian sea.
Fiume di Nisi . .	town	Demone	2500	wholesome	On a rocky ramification of Mount Scuderi . 132
Fiume di Nisi, Marina . .	village	Demone	480	indifferent	On the shore of the Ionian sea 130
Fiume freddo . .	village	Demone	800	bad	On the banks of the river Freddo, of Ætna . 182
Floridia	town	Noto	4800	wholesome	In a plain, watered by the Thymbris and the Lepa 150
Floresta	town	Demone	1200	wholesome	At the western foot of Mount Ætna . . . 130
Forza	town	Demone	1600	indifferent	On the summit of Mount Forza d'Agrò . . 160
Francavilla . . .	town	Demone	3000	damp	A post on the side of a steep hill 131
Francofonte . .	town	Noto	3400	bad	On a spacious irrigated plain 129
Frazzano . . .	village	Demone	1000	tolerable	In a fine and fertile valley 100
Furnari	town	Demone	1400	wholesome	On a gentle hill, above a plain 151
Gagliano	town	Demone	2800	bad	On the steep rock, once called Galaria . . . 94
Gala	village	Demone	450	good	On the side of a mountain, near the north coast 148
Galati	town	Demone	400	wholesome	On a high hill, on the north coast 100
Galati	village	Demone	1500	tolerable	In a valley, on the east coast 200
Gallo d'oro . . .	town	Demone	1200	wholesome	On the declivity of the hill Calidorus . . . 199
Ganci	town	Demone	7200	salubrious	Near the rise of the river Salso 60
Garibici	village	Mazzara	150	bad	On the marina, near Siculiana 72
Gazzi	village	Demone	800	healthy	On the beautiful plain of Messina 200
Geraci	town	Demone	2600	salubrious	On a high and steep mountain, once Hicarium 60
Gesso, or Gibiso .	village	Demone	240	healthy	On the side of a hill of steep ascent 187
Giampilieri . . .	village	Demone	1000	wholesome	In the fine plain, at the foot of the Neptunian range 200
Giancascio . . .	town	Mazzara	1200	tolerable	In a plain, four miles from the African sea . 60
Giardinelli . . .	village	Mazzara	350	wholesome	On the declivity of a mountain, near Partenico 19
Giardini	village	Demone	250	bad	At the mouth of the Lettanno fiumara, under Taormina 153
Giarrattana . . .	town	Noto	2500	bad	On a hill, the Cerretanum of Cicero . . . 120

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Giarre	town	Demone	4700	salubrious	On an eastern plain of Mount Ætna . . . 149
Gibillina	town	Mazzara	3300	wholesome	On a hill, in a fertile country 40
Giojosa	town	Demone	deserted	salubrious	On a mountain, on the Tyrrhenian coast . . 114
Giojosa nuova . .	town	Demone	2800	bad	At the foot of the above mountain 112
Girgenti	city	Mazzara	15000	wholesome	On the summit of a rocky mountain . . . 78
Girgenti Molo di .	caricatore	Mazzara	700	tolerable	On the shore of the African sea 82
Giuliana	town	Mazzara	2800	wholesome	On the top of a steep mountain 36
Godrano	village	Mazzara	700	wholesome	On the summit of a fine hill 24
Graniti	town	Demone	1400	bad	On the declivity of a mountain 150
Grammichele . .	town	Noto	7900	temperate	In a delicious and fertile plain 110
Grattieri	town	Demone	1700	tolerable	In a valley, near the northern shores . . . 48
Gravina	town	Demone	1200	wholesome	On the eastern side of Mount Ætna . . . 120
Grotte	town	Mazzara	3800	wholesome	On the side of a rocky hill, once Erbessus . 60
Gualtieri . . .	town	Demone	1700	tolerable	In a plain, five miles from the Tyrrhenian sea 160
Guardia	village	Noto	70	temperate	On the plain of Catania 128
Guidomandra . .	village	Demone	500	damp	On the break of the hills near Scaletta . . . 201
Isnello	town	Demone	2100	wholesome	On the side of the Madonia mountains . . . 48
Itala	town	Demone	1500	wholesome	Romantically situated on the break of a high hill 210
Jannello di Brolo .	village	Demone	600	very bad	In a valley, formed by fiumaras 98
Kaggi	village	Demone	200	bad	On the side of a mountain on the east coast . 200
Lampedusa . . .	island	Mazzara	15	salubrious	The southernmost possession of Sicily.
Lardaria . . .	village	Demone	900	temperate	On a plain site, two miles from the Ionian sea 178
Lascari	village	Mazzara	500	bad	On a hill, a mile from the Tyrrhenian shore . 45
Lentini . . .	city	Noto	5000	unhealthy	On a shattered hill, above the Leontine Fields 120
Leocadi	village	Demone	200	wholesome	On a mountain, on the east coast of Sicily . 200
Leonardi . . .	village	Demone	120	wholesome	On a high hill, over a ravine.
Leonforte . . .	town	Noto	9000	wholesome	A fine town, on a break of Mount Tavi . . 90
Librizzi	town	Demone	1200	wholesome	On the top of a steep rocky mountain 125
Licodia	village	Demone	200	salubrious	On a small hill, near Mount Ætna 140
Licodia	town	Noto	6800	wholesome	On a rough and steep rock, Eubæa of Strabo and Silius 120
Limina	town	Demone	1000	wholesome	On an eminence, 5 miles from the Ionian sea . 199
Lingua grossa . .	town	Demone	2600	temperate	On the declivity of one of the hills of Ætna . 120
Lineri	village	Demone	340	middling	On the plain near Pozzo di Gotto, roads pretty good 158
Lipari	city	Lipari	12500	excellent	The capital of the Æolian islands.
L'Ognara . . .	caricatore	Demone	200	middling	A small cove, on the east side of Mount Ætna 117
Longi	town	Demone	1200	tolerable	In a valley, near the northern coast 90
Lognini	village	Noto	120	indifferent	A small port to the south of Syracuse . . . 156
Lucca	town	Mazzara	2000	moist	On the side of a mountain, towards the southern shores 60
Maletto	town	Demone	1400	wholesome	On a break of Mount Ætna, the Malacte of Fazzello 111
Malpasso . . .	village	Demone	170	wholesome	Among the lavas of Mount Ætna 114
Malvagna . . .	town	Demone	1000	healthy	On the side of one of the hills of Mount Ætna 60

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Mandanici . . .	village	Demone	750	wholesome	On the side of a mountain, branching from Scuderi 200
Maritimo . . .	island	Mazzara	60	excellent	In the African Sea.
Marineo	town	Mazzara	6000	salubrious	In a fine situation, on a small hill 17
Marsala	city	Mazzara	21000	healthy	On a plain, on the sea-shore 70
Martini	village	Demone	700	wholesome	On the declivity of a rising hill 120
Marzamemi . . .	Tonnara	Noto	460	middling	On a point of land, near Cape Passaro . . . 161
Mascali	city	Demone	14000	wholesome	In a fine district of Mount Ætna 140
Mascaluccio . . .	town	Demone	2400	wholesome	On the eastern side of Mount Ætna 110
Massanunziata . .	village	Demone	300	wholesome	On a fine break of Mount Ætna 107
Massa San Giorgio	village	Demone	700	temperate	On a plain above Rasaculmo Cape 178
Massa San Giovanni	village	Demone	300	tolerable	On a high branch of the Neptunian range . . 176
Massa Santa Lucia	village	Demone	400	bad	In the middle of a chain of hills 177
Massa San Nicolo	village	Demone	200	indifferent	In a valley, among the Neptunian mountains . 176
Mazzara	city	Mazzara	8000	wholesome	In a perfect plain, on the shore of the African Sea 60
Mazarrà	village	Demone	820	bad	At the foot of a mountain, near the Tyrrhenian Sea 150
Mazzarino . . .	city	Noto	9700	wholesome	On the mountain once called Mactorium . . 88
Menfrici, or Mensi	town	Mazzara	6000	tolerable	On an elevated plain, near the African Sea . . 51
Meri	village	Demone	700	wholesome	On a hill two miles from the Tyrrhenian coast . 150
Messario . . ,	village	Demone	200	wholesome	On a hill at the foot of mountains 195
Messina	city	Demone	61000	salubrious	Partly on a level, and partly on a hill . . . 170
Mezzoiuso . . .	town	Mazzara	4000	humid	At the foot of a mountain, the Medium Justium of old 25
Milazzo	city	Demone	8000	indifferent	On the neck of a long peninsula 150
Milici	village	Demone	400	wholesome	On the side of a mountain, in a fine neighbourhood 151
Mili inferiore . .	village	Demone	900	temperate	Near the coast, to the south of Messina . . . 200
Mili superiore . .	village	Demone	700	wholesome	On one of the ramifications of Dinnamare . . 201
Mililli	town	Noto	4000	healthy	On a mountain near Augusta 140
Militello	town	Noto	8000	healthy	On a rocky inland mountain 120
Militello	town	Demone	2500	tolerable	In a valley near the north coast 90
Milo	village	Demone	200	excellent	Romantically situated above Giarre 153
Mineo	city	Noto	8000	wholesome	On a high and rocky mount; the Menæ of antiquity 150
Mirabella . . .	town	Noto	3100	wholesome	On a high hill, in a fine country 100
Mirto	village	Demone	800	pure	On a high mount; the Myrthus of Pirro . . . 99
Missilmeri . . .	town	Mazzara	6000	bad	On the side of a hill; the country productive . 9
Mister bianco .	town	Demone	3500	wholesome	On Mount Ætna; Monasterium Album of Pirro 118
Mistretta . . .	city	Demone	8000	salubrious	On a high hill; Mytistratum of Polybius . . 78
Modica	city	Noto	21000	humid	In two steep, but picturesque, valleys 120
Moio	village	Demone	300	very bad	In a valley, or rather ravine 118
Mola	town	Demone	500	excellent	On the peak of a hill, above Taormina . . . 153
Molino	village	Demone	400	damp	Between two valleys on the east coast . . . 182
Mondello . . .	village	Demone	170	temperate	On the beach of the Faro Point 205
Monforte . . .	town	Demone	2200	wholesome	On a hill near the Tyrrhenian shore 220

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Mongiuffo . . .	town	Demone	1400	wholesome	At the foot of a hill, over a fuimara 100
Mondolo . . .	village	Mazzara	300	humid	Near Point Rosso, on the south-coast . . 73
Monreale . . .	city	Mazzara	12000	salubrious	On the side of Mount Caputo 4
Montagnareale .	town	Demone	2000	wholesome	In a small valley, near the Tyrrhenian shores 120
Monte albano . .	town	Demone	3100	wholesome	On the top of a mountain of the Madonia . . 150
Monte allegro . .	village	Mazzara	1200	bad	On a hill; the Mons-lætus of Sicilian writers . 64
Monte aperto . .	village	Mazzara	1000	good	On the ridge of a southern mountain . . . 70
Monte d'oro . .	town	Mazzara	1300	wholesome	On an inland hill, in a fine neighbourhood . . 64
Monte lepre . .	town	Mazzara	2800	wholesome	On the side of a mountain, near Partenico . . 18
Monte Maggiore .	town	Mazzara	6000	temperate	On the declivity of a fine mountain 36
Monte rosso . .	town	Noto	3600	salubrious	On a high and inland mountain 130
Monte reale . .	village	Mazzara	800	tolerable	On a flat, over Cape Rosello 75
Monte vago . .	town	Mazzara	2500	wholesome	In a fertile plain, near the southern shores . . 48
Mortella . . .	village	Demone	200	middling	On the beach, near the Faro point 206
Motta camastro .	town	Demone	1600	salubrious	On an almost inaccessible mountain 140
Motta d'affermo .	town	Demone	1800	wholesome	On the summit of a high mountain 72
Motte S. Anastasia	town	Demone	1500	bad	On a curious basaltic, and steep rock . . . 100
Mussomeli . . .	town	Mazzara	9000	wholesome	On the side of a large inland mountain . . . 50
Naro	city	Mazzara	10000	wholesome	In a fine situation, on a height 75
Nassari	village	Demone	300	middling	In a plain, on the Tyrrhenian shores . . . 147
Naso	town	Demone	8000	wholesome	On the high mountain ; once Agathyrnum . 110
Nicolosi	town	Demone	2000	wholesome	On the south side of Mount Ætna 102
Nicosia	city	Demone	12000	salubrious	On the ridge of a rocky hill, anciently Herbita 80
Niscemi	town	Noto	6500	wholesome	On the extremity of a mountain 120
Nissoria	town	Noto	1200	wholesome	In a delicious plain, inland 92
Noara	town	Demone	4600	temperate	On the declivity of a ridge of Mount Ætna . 150
Noto	city	Noto	13000	bad	On a rocky hill, in a superb situation . . . 149
Ogliastro . . .	town	Mazzara	1400	wholesome	On a high hill, anciently called Olea 15
Ogliastro . . .	tonnera	Demone	500	tolerable	On the beach of the gulf of Patti 116
Olivieri	town	Demone	300	execrable	On the shore of the Tyrrhenian sea . . . 150
Pace	village	Demone	340	wholesome	On a hill two miles from the north coast . . 168
Pace	village	Demone	50	wholesome	On the coast of the Ionian sea 200
Paceco	town	Mazzara	2000	temperate	On an eminence, in an extensive plain . . . 50
Pachino	town	Noto	2000	temperate	On a tabled hill, near Cape Passaro . . . 166
Pagliara	village	Demone	900	tolerable	At the foot of a mountain ; Pulparia of Pirro 194
Palagonia	town	Noto	3500	bad	On the side of a hill, near the lake of the Palici 120
Palazzo Adriano .	town	Mazzara	4700	healthy	In an almost perfect plain 43
Palazzuolo . . .	town	Noto	8500	humid	On a high mountain ; the ancient Erbessus . 130
Palermo	city	Mazzara	180000	damp	In a luxuriant plain, bounded by mountains.
Palma	town	Mazzara	8400	wholesome	In a fine plain, amongst gentle hills . . . 86
Panaria	islands	Lipari	200	excellent	In the Tyrrhenian sea.

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Pantelaria . . .	island	Mazzara	4600	salubrious	In the African sea.
Parco	town	Mazzara	2500	wholesome	On a beautiful side of Mount Pizzulo 6
Partanna . . .	town	Mazzara	7000	wholesome	On a hill, eight miles from the African Sea . 50
Partenico . . .	town	Mazzara	9500	indifferent	In a fine plain; good carriageable roads . : 18
Passaro	tonnara	Noto	300	tolerable	On a point near the valley of Ginepro . . . 173
Passaro capo . .	island	Noto	75	healthy	At the south-east extreme of Sicily 176
Paternó	city	Demone	10000	bad	On an inclined plain of Ætna; ancient Hybla Major 120
Patti	city	Demone	4000	wholesome	In an amphitheatre of fine hills 119
Patti, Marina di .	village	Demone	450	humid	On the beach of the gulf of Patti 117
Pedara	town	Demone	2000	wholesome	On a plain of Mount Ætna; Lapidaria of Fazzello 110
Perco	village	Demone	400	bad	On the extensive plain of Milazzo 155
Petralia soprana .	town	Demone	4000	wholesome	On the side of the Madonia mountains . . . 50
Petralia sottana .	town	Demone	5500	wholesome	Near the above; the Petra inferior of Ptolemy 54
Pettineo	town	Demone	1600	bad	In a large valley; the Pittia of Pliny . . . 72
Pezzolo	village	Demone	600	temperate	On the break of a Pelorian mountain . . . 183
Piana dei Greci .	town	Mazzara	4700	wholesome	On the slope of Mount Pizzuto; a Greek colony 14
Piazza	city	Noto	13000	wholesome	A fine town on a hill; the Plutia of Diodorus . 100
Piedimonte . . .	town	Demone	1200	tolerable	On the eastern base of Mount Ætna . . . 150
Pietraperzia . .	town	Noto	8500	wholesome	On a steep and inland mountain 74
Piraino	town	Demone	2400	healthy	On a high hill over Brolo; the ancient Pyracmium 120
Pistumia	village	Demone	300	tolerable	In the plain, south of Messina 174
Pizala	village	Noto	400	unhealthy	On a plain near the river Abysso 153
Pizzulo	village	Demone	80	tolerable	A fishing cove, on the east coast of Mount Ætna 157
Poggio reale . .	town	Mazzara	2300	bad	Over a valley, and half way up a hill . . . 38
Polizzi	town	Mazzara	5000	wholesome	On the declivity of an inland mountain . . . 48
Pollina	town	Demone	1400	wholesome	On the steep summit of a hill; once Apollonia . 60
Porto Salvo . .	village	Demone	500	tolerable	On a gentle hill, 2 miles from the north coast . 148
Pozzallo	caricatore	Noto	300	temperate	On the coast of the African Sea 132
Pozzo di gotto . .	town	Demone	3500	wholesome	In a beautiful plain; roads good 160
Prizzi	town	Mazzara	7400	wholesome	On a high inland mountain 40
Protonotaro . .	village	Demone	300	indifferent	On a plain near the north coast 148
Raccuglia . . .	town	Demone	2000	bad	In the centre of a fertile valley 101
Raffadali . . .	town	Mazzara	5000	wholesome	On the top of a southern hill 60
Ragusa	city	Noto	16000	tolerable	In the middle of an Alpine mountain; ancient Hybla Hærea 120
Rametta	town	Demone	2700	salubrious	On the side of mount Ætna 184
Rammacca . . .	town	Noto	1400	bad	On a steep hill, inland 130
Randazzo . . .	town	Demone	4700	tolerable	On the side of Ætna, near a curious lake . . 120
Ravanusa . . .	town	Mazzara	6000	salubrious	On a gentle hill, in a fine country 84
Regalbuto . . .	town	Demone	6800	wholesome	On a commanding inland hill 100
Regalmuto . . .	town	Mazzara	7000	wholesome	In an almost perfect plain, with fertile grounds 68
Realmonte . . .	town	Mazzara	1600	temperate	On a gentle hill, a mile from the African Sea . 70

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Reitano	village	Demone	800	bad	In a valley, four miles from the Tyrrhenian sea 72
Resuttana	town	Demone	2200	wholesome	At the foot of an inland mountain 54
Ribbera	town	Mazzara	4800	bad	In a plain, on the southern shores 60
Riesi	town	Noto	6000	wholesome	In a plain, surrounded by mountains 80
Riposto	caricatore	Demone	3000	healthy	At the eastern base of Mount Ætna 148
Rivela	village	Mazzara	500	indifferent	Between Sciacca and Monte Allegro, roads good 62
Rocca fiorita	village	Demone	400	wholesome	On the declivity of a high mountain 140
Roccalumera	village	Demone	1200	wholesome	In a valley, a mile from the Ionian sea 151
Rocca palomba	town	Mazzara	1400	bad	On the side of an inland mountain 40
Roccavaldina	town	Demone	1700	wholesome	On a mountain, 3 miles from the Tyrrhenian sea 180
Roccella	village	Demone	400	wholesome	On the summit of a mountain 54
Rocello	village	Demone	1200	execrable	Among rice grounds, near the Fuime Grande 40
Rodi	village	Demone	370	bad	On a mountain, near the river Vizzolina 148
Rosolini	town	Noto	3000	wholesome	On a perfect plain, eight miles from the sea 160
Salaparuta	town	Mazzara	3200	bad	On the shelving declivity of a mountain 36
Salemi	city	Mazzara	9000	wholesome	On the top of a hill, the ancient Alicia, or Halycus 50
Salice	village	Demone	700	temperate	In the middle of a chain of mountains 190
Salina	island	Lipari	4000	excellent	In the Tyrrhenian sea.
Sambaca	town	Mazzara	9600	wholesome	On a hill, eight miles from the African sea 50
San Biagio	town	Mazzara	1500	bad	On a low hill, between two valleys 54
San Biagio	village	Demone	400	indifferent	On a level among hills; roads pretty good 191
San Carlo	village	Mazzara	350	bad	On a small inland hillock 56
San Cataldo	town	Mazzara	8000	damp	On a fine and fertile plain 64
San Clemente	village	Demone	400	wholesome	In a plain below Messina 200
San Cono	village	Noto	500	temperate	On inland level grounds 100
San Ferdinando	village	Mazzara	800	wholesome	In a valley, near the Pozzo di S. Martino 40
San Filippo	village	Demone	70	temperate	On a flat, four miles from the north coast 200
S. Filippo d'Argirò	city	Noto	6000	wholesome	On the side and summit of a castled mountain, Agrium 90
S. Filippo inferiore	village	Demone	400	tolerable	In a valley four miles from Messina 191
S. Filippo superiore	village	Demone	700	tolerable	A little higher on the hills, than the foregoing 199
San Fratello	town	Demone	5400	bad	On a hill among mountains 90
San Giorgio	tonnara	Demone	400	humid	At the base of Mount Calava 116
San Giovanni	town	Mazzara	2400	wholesome	In an inland cultivated plain 42
S. Giovanni di Gallermo	village	Demone	800	wholesome	On the lowest ridge of Mount Ætna 110
S. Giovanni la Punta	village	Demone	900	tolerable	On a plane site, on the east coast 108
San Giuliano	city	Mazzara	8000	excellent	On the highest summit of Mount Eryx 60
San Giuseppe	town	Mazzara	2400	bad	At the foot of a northern mountain 22
San Gregorio	village	Demone	75	damp	On a cove, under Cape Orlando 113
San Gregorio	village	Demone	900	wholesome	On a low break of Mount Ætna 112
San Gregorio	village	Demone	250	humid	Near the mountain of Gibiso, or Gesso 190
San Lorenzo	town	Mazzara	1100	bad	In a perfect plain, near the African sea 57

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
San Marco . .	town	Demone	2600	temperate	On a hill over a fertile plain ; roads pretty good 100
San Marco nuovo .	caricatore	Demone	450	bad	On the beach, near the Zaputta fiumara . . 101
San Martino . .	town	Demone	1300	wholesome	On a mountain of the north coast 160
San Mauro . .	town	Demone	4000	wholesome	On a high part of the Madonia range . . . 61
San Michele . .	village	Demone	350	temperate	In the large plain south of Messina 200
San Michele . .	town	Noto	2500	bad	At the foot of an inland mountain 100
San Pantaleò . .	islet	Mazzara	160	temperate	In the group of Stagnone ; ancient Motya . 75
San Paolo . . .	village	Demone	250	temperate	On the side of a mountain on the north coast . 150
San Paolo . . .	town	Noto	1200	wholesome	On a low hill, called Solarino 160
San Pietro . . .	village	Demone	750	healthy	On the eastern side of Mount Ætna 110
San Pietro . . .	caricatore	Noto	260	middling	On a rocky point, on the sea shore 129
San Pietro . . .	town	Demone	2600	temperate	On a plain, near Monforte 200
San Pietro . . .	town	Demone	2500	wholesome	In a ravine of the mountain, above Patti . . 140
Sant' Agata . .	village	Demone	500	very bad	On the beach of a large valley 97
Sant' Agata . .	village	Demone	300	wholesome	On the lowest ridge of Mount Ætna . . . 110
Sant' Anna . .	village	Mazzara	500	bad	At the foot of a rugged mountain 50
Sant' Anna .	village	Demone	130	bad	On the north side of Trizza bay 109
Santa Caterina .	town	Mazzara	5800	wholesome	On a high inland hill 64
Santa Cristina .	village	Mazzara	500	healthy	On a hill, in a fruitful country 12
Santa Croce . .	town	Noto	2000	bad	On an eminence, in a flat country 130
Santa Dominica .	village	Demone	400	wholesome	On the side of a mountain 150
Santa Dominica .	village	Demone	250	wholesome	Near the sea, below Messina 187
Sant' Elisabetta .	town	Mazzara	1000	wholesome	Partly in a plain, and partly on a hill . . . 58
Santa Flavia . .	village	Mazzara	650	temperate	In a fine plain, near the Tyrrhenian sea . . 10
Santa Lucia . .	town	Demone	6000	healthy	On the fall of Mount Dinnamare 190
Santa Lucia . .	village	Demone	400	wholesome	Almost half way up a mountain 150
Santa Margherita .	village	Demone	200	bad	In a plain near the fiumara of Santo Stefano . 190
Santa Margherita .	town	Mazzara	7000	wholesome	On an elevated inland plain 50
Santa Maria . .	town	Noto	1100	healthy	Between Caltagirone and Terra nova, roads good 109
Santa Ninfa . .	town	Mazzara	4200	wholesome	On a high hill, ten miles from the sea . . . 40
Santa Venera . .	village	Demone	200	good	In a plain, near the river Nassari 150
Santa Venera . .	village	Demone	370	wholesome	On Mount Ætna ; with mineral waters . . 123
SantissimaNunziata	village	Demone	600	wholesome	On the Ionian coast, near Messina 200
SantissimaSalvatore	town	Demone	1300	salubrious	On a high mountain of the northern coast . . 100
Santo	village	Demone	400	temperate	On the plain below Messina 198
S. Angelo di Brolo	town	Demone	4000	middling	On a declivity near the site of Aluntium . . 120
Sant' Angelo . .	town	Mazzara	1300	bad	In the plain of Muxiaro 60
Sant' Antonio .	village	Demone	350	tolerable	On a flat, a mile from the Tyrrhenian sea . . 148
Santo Stefano . .	village	Demone	800	temperate	On a level site, a mile from the Ionian sea . 180
Santo Stefano . .	village	Demone	750	humid	In a valley, adjoining Briga 201
Santo Stefano . .	town	Demone	2500	healthy	On a hill, between Mistretta, and the sea . . 72

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and post Miles from Palermo.
Santo Stefano . .	town	Mazzara	6000	bad	On the declivity of the Mount Quisquina . . 48
Santo Teodoro . .	village	Demone	900	wholesome	On the side of Mount Ætna 97
Santo Vito . . .	village	Mazzara	140	humid	On a plain, under Cape Santo Vito 50
Saponara . . .	town	Demone	2400	tolerable	In a luxuriant plain, 3 miles from the sea . . 186
Savoca	town	Demone	2000	wholesome	On a rocky and castled hill, over a large fiumara 200
Scaletta	town	Demone	800	wholesome	On a hill commanding the pass ; once Scalectum 201
Scaletta, Marina di	village	Demone	100	wholesome	On the beach, under the above hill 200
Schisò	hamlet	Demone	60	humid	On the site of the ancient Naxus 160
Siacca	town	Mazzara	11000	salubrious	On a rocky hill, at the foot of a mountain . . 60
Sciara	town	Mazzara	900	bad	On the side of a hill, near the Tyrrhenian sea . 33
Scicli	town	Noto	10600	humid	In a valley, among several mountains . . . 150
Scillato	town	Mazzara	4200	bad	Between two eminences, anciently Xillatum . 42
Sclafani	village	Mazzara	870	wholesome	On a mountain, almost inaccessible 46
Scopella	tonnara	Mazzara	200	bad	In the bay of Castell 'a mare ; ancient Cotaria 45
Scordia	town	Noto	4500	indifferent	In a rich and cultivated plain 120
Serra di falco . .	town	Mazzara	3800	tolerable	In an almost perfect plain 64
Serro	village	Demone	200	wholesome	On a hill, near Cape Rasaculmo 190
Sicaminò . . .	town	Mazzara	500	good	On a gentle hill, on the north coast . . . 164
Siculiana . . .	town	Mazzara	4500	indifferent	On abrupt hills, near the sulphur mines . . . 70
Sinagra	town	Demone	1000	bad	On the sides of two high hills 110
Soccorso . . .	town	Demone	1600	bad	On the declivity of a hill, over a valley . . 170
Solanto	tonnara	Mazzara	100	healthy	On a sandy bay, under the Bagaria 10
Sorrentini . . .	village	Demone	300	wholesome	On a hill, a mile from the Tyrrhenian sea . 124
Sortino	town	Noto	7300	wholesome	On a gentle hill, the ancient Xuthinum . . . 130
Spacca forno . .	town	Noto	8000	tolerable	On a hill, near romantic dells 150
Spadafora	village	Demone	500	unhealthy	On the beach of the bay of Millazzo . . . 160
Sperlinga . . .	town	Demone	1300	excellent	On a high hill, near the site of Engium . . 72
Stazzo	village	Demone	120	good	In a cove on the east coast of Mount Ætna . 126
Stromboli . . .	island	Lipari	1200	excellent	In the Tyrrhenian sea.
Sumatino . . .	town	Mazzara	3400	humid	On the right side of the river Salso 74
Sutera	town	Mazzara	2700	salubrious	At the foot of a high mountain 55
Syracuse	city	Noto	13000	tolerable	On the small peninsula, once Ortygio . . . 150
Taormina . . .	town	Demone	3500	middling	On the tabled summit of Mount Taurus . . 149
Termini	city	Mazzara	12500	wholesome	Under Mount Euraco ; good carriageable roads 24
Terra nova . . .	town	Noto	9000	healthy	On a hill, on the coast of the African sea . . 120
Terra sina . . .	town	Mazzara	2000	indifferent	In a plain, near the Tyrrhenian sea 25
Torretta . . .	town	Mazzara	2400	humid	On the side of a northern mountain 9
Tortorici . . .	town	Demone	4000	healthy	On the slope of a fine valley 100
Trabia	town	Mazzara	1200	wholesome	On the coast, between Palermo and Termini . 21
Traina	city	Demone	8000	salubrious	On a height, in a fine woody country . . . 90
Trapani	city	Mazzara	25000	healthy	On a long and low isthmus 60

PLACE	Rank	Province	People	Health	Situation, and Post Miles from Palermo.
Trappeto . . .	village	Demone	250	good	On the side of Mount Ætna 110
Trecastagne . . .	town	Demone	2500	wholesome	On Ætna, in a beautiful wood of chestnut trees 140
Tremisteri . . .	town	Demone	1000	wholesome	On a fall of Mount Dinnamare 200
Tremisteri . . .	village	Demone	500	salubrious	On the side of Mount Ætna 112
Tripi	town	Demone	2000	salubrious	On a rocky mountain, once Abacænum . . . 160
Trizzi	village	Demone	800	damp	On the east coast, opposite the Cyclopum Scopuli 115
Tusa	town	Demone	3200	wholesome	On a hill, near the ruins of Alæsa 66
Ucria	town	Demone	2000	tolerable	On the side of a hill, to the northward . . . 120
Ustica	island	Mazzara	1700	salubrious	In the Tyrrhenian sea.
Valdina	town	Demone	4000	wholesome	On a hill, two miles from the coast 180
Valguarnera . .	town	Noto	5500	bad	On a gentle hill, in a fine country 86
Valguarnera . .	village	Mazzara	450	bad	On a small eminence, called Raccali 21
Vallelunga . . .	town	Mazzara	3500	middling	In a fertile inland valley 58
Valledulmo . . .	town	Mazzara	3800	tolerable	At the bottom of a cultivated valley 48
Venetico	village	Demone	850	wholesome	On a gentle hill, three miles from the sea . . 160
Ventimiglia . . .	town	Mazzara	3200	wholesome	On the side of an inland mountain 24
Via grande	town	Demone	3100	healthy	On the side of Mount Ætna 130
Vicari	town	Mazzara	4500	healthy	On Mount Erbessus, inland 30
Villalba	town	Mazzara	1400	wholesome	On an inland mountainous site 50
Villafranca	town	Mazzara	2700	tolerable	In a plain, ten miles from the African sea . . 51
Villafrati	town	Mazzara	2000	salubrious	On a hill, in a fine neighbourhood 22
Villarosa	town	Noto	2800	tolerable	In a large inland plain 80
Villasmundo . .	village	Demone	700	bad	On a small volcanic hillock, in a plain . . . 120
Vindicari	village	Noto	200	humid	At the little port, once known as Naustasmus 154
Vita	town	Mazzara	2800	wholesome	On one of the southern hills 40
Vittoria	city	Noto	10000	unhealthy	On a very extensive plain 130
Vizzini	town	Noto	9000	wholesome	On a volcanic mountain, the Bidinum of Ptolemy 97
Vulcano	island	Lipari	25	salubrious	In the Tyrrhenian sea.
Zaffaria	village	Demone	470	temperate	In a plain, on the Ionian shore 175

The following was the actual state of the roads practicable for carriages in Sicily, in 1816, with their distances in miles from the capital:

PALERMO.

Ficarizzi, 6. Bagaria, 9. Altavilla, 14. Trabia, 21. Termini, 24.

Misilmeri, 9 — Ogliastro, 15. Villafrati, 22. — Rocca palomba, 40. Vallelunga, 58. / Mezzoiuso, 25. / Marineo, 17.

Parco, 6. Piana dei Greci, 14.

Monreale, 4. — San Giuseppe, 22. / Burghetto, 16. Partenico, 18. Valguarnera, 20. Alcamo, 30.

Capace, 12. Carini, 18.

In all the foregoing distances, the miles are of the Sicilian post: they are quite arbitrary, and so little governed by rule, that I could not, from them, form a scale to place with the Italian and English miles on the map. The postmasters have, perhaps, estimated some of them by the difficulty of the roads; and as, by a measurement from the map, the traveller might be surprised at the assertions of a guide, an estafette, or a campiere, I considered it highly nesessary to collect this local information from the most authentic sources.

In concluding this article, it may be useful to subjoin the arrivals and departures of the several posts from the capital.

POSTS.

Sunday . The courier arrives from Naples.

Monday . At noon, the couriers depart for Messina, by the coast; for Messina, by the mountains; for Catania, Syracuse, Noto, and Alicata. These return again on Friday, after eleven days. The courier also sets off for Trapani; and on Saturday, after five days, returns.

Tuesday . The couriers arrive from Messina, by the coast; from Catania, Syracuse, Noto, Alicata, and Trapani. At three P.M., a courier departs for Naples.

Wednesday The courier arrives from Naples.

Thursday The couriers depart, at noon, for Messina, by the coast; for Catania, Syracuse, Noto, and Alicata; to return on Tuesday, after twelve days. Another sets off for Trapani, to return on Tuesday, after five days.

Friday . The courier arrives from Messina, by the coast; from Messina, by the mountains; from Catania, Syracuse, Noto, and Alicata. At three P.M., a courier departs for Naples.

Saturday . The courier arrives from Trapani.

MONEY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

Though Sicily has always had a separate and distinct mint from that of Naples, the specie of both has usually passed in common; in addition to which, the Spanish gold and silver coins are current. The following is the comparative value of Sicilian money, at the medium exchange of 48 tarì to the pound sterling.

Sicilian.			English. s.	d.
An Ounce	30	Tarì	12	6
A Dollar	12	Tarì	5	0
A Ducat	10	Tarì	4	2
A Tarì	10	Baiocchi	0	5
A Baiocco	2	Grani	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
A Grano	4	Piccioli	0	$0\frac{1}{4}$

In the weights and measures there is some little irregularity, as many of the towns have not yet abandoned the old system; according to which, a cantar grande was 100 rotoli, or 197 lbs. English; and a cantar common 100 rotoli, or 175 lbs. English. A rotolo grande was 33 ounces; and the common rotolo, by which provisions were retailed, 3 ounces, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. English; an ounce consisted of 30 Sicilian trapesi.

The English cwt. of 112 lbs., equals 58 of the rotoli grandi, and 64 of the common; by which last, iron, tin, copper, lead, steel, nails, hemp, pitch, cordage, &c., are sold.

The old line measure made 12 oncie to the palm, of 10 English inches and 3 lines; 8 palms to the canna, and 3 to the braccio, or Sicilian yard, of 30 English inches and 9 lines; while the passo, or fathom, was 2 bracci, or 61 inches, 8 lines English. The canna reale, by which stone was measured, consisted of 64 palms.

A salm of land, or what it is computed a salm of wheat will sow, is $5\frac{1}{3}$ acres English.

In the dry measures, a salma generale was 16 tumoli, or 20 English bushels; a salma grossa, 20 tumoli; and another salm, for the sale of lime, sand, gypsum, and charcoal, consisted of 3 tumoli. A tumolo was 16 rotoli, or 28 English pounds.

Oil was sold by the caffiso, of 96 measurelli, equal to about $3\frac{1}{5}$ English gallons; and wine and spirits were sold by the salm of eight quartare. The salm was 2 barrels, equal to 21 English gallons; the barrel consisted of 4 quartare, and the quartara was 16 quartucci.

The new regulations for weights and measures were ordered, by the Parliament, to take place throughout the island, agreeably to the following scheme, on January 1, 1811:

A Salma of wine	4	Barrels, each equal to $9\frac{1}{6}$ gallons English.
The Barrel	2	Quartare.
The Quartara	20	Quartuci.
Caffiso of oil	10	Rotoli, or $4\frac{1}{2}$ English gallons.

The salm for wheat and other grain was henceforward to be the salma generale, and the canna was to be diminished 2 palms in a hundred canes.

LINEAR MEASURE.

									Punto.
								Linea.	12
							Oncia.	12	144
						Palmo.	12	144	1728
					Passetto.	2	24	288	3456
				Mezza Canna.	2	4	48	576	6912
			Canna.	2	4	8	96	1152	13824
		Catena.	4	8	16	32	384	4608	55296
	Corda.	4	16	32	64	128	1536	18432	221184
Miglio.	45	180	720	1440	2880	5760	69120	829440	9953280

LAND MEASURE.

								Arca in Palmi quad.	Lato in Canne.
							Canne quad. o Quartigli.	64	1
						Quarto.	4	256	2
					Catena quad. o Carozzo.	4	16	1024	4
				Mondello	4	16	64	4096	8
			Tumolo.	4	16	64	256	16384	16
		Corda quad. o Bisaccio	4	16	64	256	1024	65536	32
	Salma	4	16	64	256	1024	4096	262144	64

DRY MEASURE.

							Palmi cubi.	Oncie cube
						Quartiglio.	1√256	$6\frac{3}{4}$
					Quarto.	4	1√64	27
				Carozzo.	4	16	1√16	108
			Mondello	4	16	64	1√4	432
		Palmo, o Cubo o Tumolo.	4	16	64	256	1	1728
	Bisaccio.	4	16	64	256	1024	4	6912
Salma.	4	16	64	256	1024	4096	16	27648

LIQUID MEASURE.

							Palmi cubi.	Oncie cube.
						Bichiere.	1√80	$21\frac{3}{5}$
					Caraffa.	2	1√40	$43\frac{1}{5}$
				Quartuccio.	2	4	1√20	$86\frac{2}{5}$
			Tumolo o Quatara.	20	40	80	1	1728
		Barile.	2	40	80	160	2	345
	Salma.	8	16	320	640	1280	16	27648
Botte o Cubo di mezza canna.	4	32	64	1280	2560	5120	64	110592

WEIGHTS.

								Coccio o Grano.	Ottavo. 8
							Scropolo o Dinaro.	20	160
						Mezza quarta o dramma.	3	60	480
					Quarta.	2	6	120	960
				Mezz' Oncia.	2	4	12	240	1920
			Oncia.	2	4	8	24	480	3840
		Libra.	12	24	48	96	288	5760	46080
	Rotolo.	$2\frac{1}{2}$	30	60	120	240	720	14400	115200
Cantaro.	100	250	3000	6000	12000	24000	72000	1440000	11520000

Note by the Abbate Piazzi.

Il mezzo tumolo è uguale al modio Romano.

Il rotolo pressochè, do. dupondion Greco.

Il quartuccio, osia il volume d'un rotolo d'oglio lampante, do. capetis, o capitha dagli Arabi.

La canna contiene otto palmi come otto cubiti erano nel kena, hachemica, o casaba degli Arabi.

Il cantaro è uguale al cintar degli Arabi, il quale anche contonova cento rotoli.

No. VI.

LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL FISH, SHELL-FISH, AND MOLLUSCÆ, THAT FREQUENT THE SICILIAN COASTS AND WATERS.

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Accipenser sturio . . .	Storiunu	Sturgeon.
huso	Storiunu marinu	Great sturgeon.
Ammodytes Tobianus . .	Aguglia	Launce.
Anarchichas lupus . . .	Pisci lupo	Sea-wolf.
Anomia ephippium . . .	Matriperna fausa . . .	Saddle anomia.
Arca barbata	Sponguli pilusi	Bearded ark.
—— Noæ	Sponguli	Noah's ark.
—— pilosa	Nuci pilusa	Hairy ark.
Argentina sphyrœna . .	Curunedda	Spit fish (harengiform).
Argonauta argo	Todari	Nautilus.
Asteris, varieties . . .	Stiddi di mari	Starfish.
Atherinus hepsetus . . .	Pisci vergatu	Atherine.
Balistes scolopax	. . . . .	Filefish.
—— vetula	Pisci sozzu	Old wife.
Blennius alauda	. . . . .	Smooth blenny, or sea-lark.
—— galea	. . . . .	
—— galerita	Bavusa cu tuppé . . .	Crested blenny.
—— gattarugina . . .	. . . . .	Gatsrugin blenny.
—— gunellus	Gunellu	Butter-fish.
—— mustella	. . . . .	
—— ocellaris	. . . . .	Sea butterfly.
—— pentedactylus . .	. . . . .	Five-fingered blenny.
—— pholis	Bausa imperiali	Scaly blenny.
—— physis	Bavusuni	
—— tenticularis . . .	Bausa ucchiuta . . .	
—— viviparus	. . . . .	Viviparous blenny.
Buccinum, varieties . . .	Brogni	
Bulla ampula	Vilidda di mari	Obtuse dipper.
Callionymus dracunculus .	. . . . .	Sordid dragonet.
—— lyra	Dragone marinu	Gemmeous dragonet.

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Cancer arctus	Cicala di mari	Broad lobster.
—— bernardus . . .	Diavulicchiu di mari . .	Hermit, or soldier crab.
—— depurator	Granciu di fangu . . .	Cleanser crab.
—— locusta	Alausta	Spiny, or locust lobster.
—— mænas	Granciu di rina	Common English crab.
—— maja	Granciu fudduni	
—— squilla	Gammaru	Prawn.
Cardium aculeatum . . .	Galli spinusi	Aculeated, or prickly cockle.
—— unedo	Crocchiula 'ncanalata . .	Ribbed, or Sicilian cockle.
Cepola rubescens	Bannera russigna	Red-banded fish.
—— tenia	Pisci bannera	Riband fish.
—— trachyptera . . .	. . . . .	Sea-worm, or serpent.
Chætodon paru	. . . . .	Square chætodon.
—— vetula	Ogiusa	
Chama antiquata	Nuci di mari	Chama, or sea-nut.
—— bicornis	Ostrica monaca	Double horned chama.
—— cor	Cori di Voi	Heart cockle.
—— gryphoides . . .	Ostrica chi russigni . . .	
Clupea alosa	. . . . .	Shad.
—— encrasicolus . . .	Anciova	Anchovy.
—— pilchardus . . .	Saracca	Pilchard.
—— sprattus	Sarda	Sprat.
—— siculus	Cicirelli	Sicilian White bait.
Coryphæna hippuris . . .	Capuni	Coryphene.
—— novacula	Pettini	Razor coryphene.
—— pompilus	Lampuca	Striped coryphene
Cottus cataphractus . . .	. . . . .	Mailed bull head
—— dracunculus . . .	. . . . .	Miller's thumb.
—— gobio	Capo grosso	Bull head.
—— scorpius	Scorfua	Sea scorpion.
Cyprinus auratus . . .	Pesci di oru	Gold fish.
—— barbus	Barbio	Barbel.
—— brama	Abrammu	Bream.
—— carpio	Carpa	Carp.
—— gobio	Ghiuzzu	Gudgeon.
—— jeses	Capitone	Chub.
—— leuciscus	. . . . .	Dace.
—— nasus	. . . . .	

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Cyprinus phoxinus . . .	Pisciulinu	Minnow.
—— rutilis	Pisci duci	Roach.
—— tinca . .	Tinca	Tench.
Delphinus delphis . . .	Delfinu	Dolphin.
—— orca . . .	. . . . .	Grampus.
—— phocæna .	Pisci porcu	Porpess.
Donax scripta	Arcella stizziata	Solen, or razor fish.
—— trunculus	Arcella giarnusa . . .	
Echineis cidaris	. . . . .	
—— remora	Pisci intoppu	Sucking fish.
Echinus cidaris	Rizza a sfera	The turbaned sea hedge-hog
—— esculentus	Rizza carisa	Eatable sea hedge-hog.
—— miliaris	Rizza	
—— purpureus . . .	Ficu d'India di mari . .	Purple Echinus.
—— spatagus	Rizza spatagu	Cordated Echinus.
Esox acus	. . . . .	
—— bellone	Agugghia	Gar fish.
—— lucius	Cane di fiumi	Pike.
—— sphyræna	Aluzzu	Sea pike.
—— stomias	Stomica	Piper mouthed pike.
—— synodus	. . . . .	
Exocætus exilieu . . .	Ancileddu imperiali . .	Swallow flying fish.
Gadus æglefinus	Baccalà friscu	Haddock.
—— albidus	. . . . .	
—— asellus mollis . . .	Moncaro	
—— asellus varius . .	Asnelli	
—— barbatus	. . . . .	Whiting pout.
—— blennoides . . .	Mirruzzu imperiali . . .	Blennoid.
—— lota	Pisci di spini	Burbot.
—— Mediterraneus . .	. . . . .	
—— merlangus . . .	Mirruzzu duci	Whiting.
—— merluccius . . .	Mirruzzu	Slake.
—— minutus	. . . . .	Capelin.
—— mustela	Mustelu	Five bearded cod.
—— pollachius . . .	. . . . .	Whiting Pollack.
Gasterosteus aculeatis . .	Pisci minuto	Stickleback.
—— pungitius	. . . . .	
—— spinachia	Ispriotta	

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Gobius aphia	Gurgiuneddu	Spotted goby, or sea gudgeon.
—— bicolor		Two coloured goby.
—— joso		White goby.
—— niger	Gurgiuni niuru	Black goby, or rock fish.
—— paganellus	Gurgiuni	
Gymnotus acus	Ancidduzza	Gymnote, or carapo.
Labrus adriaticus	Peroiudda	Basse.
—— anthias	Munacedda di forti	Holy basse.
—— cretensis		Cretan basse.
—— cynædus	Pizza di Ré	Yellow basse.
—— fuscus		Tawny basse.
—— guttatus	Turdu stizziatu	Speckled basse.
—— hepatus		Liver basse.
—— Iulis	Arusa	Rainbow fish.
—— melops		
—— merula	Turdu d'arca	Black labrus.
—— olivaceus		Olive basse.
—— pavo		Peacock labrus.
—— reticulatus		Reticulated basse.
—— sachetus		
—— scarus	Bricchese	
—— turdus	Turdu	Sea-tench, or wrasse.
—— venosus		Bloated basse.
—— viridis	Viridu	Green Labrus.
Lepas balanus	Ghiannari di mari	Acorn shell.
—— anatifera	Summuzzaroli	Duck barnacle.
Lophius Europeus		Toad-fish.
—— piscatorius		The angler.
Medusa marsupialis	Ogghiu a mari	Sea anemone.
—— velella	Vela	Sea nettle.
Mugil cephalus	Malettu o cefalu	Mullet.
Mullus apogon	Trigghia svarvata	
—— imberbis	Re di Trigghia	King mullet.
—— rut er, or barbatus	Trigghia di fangu	Red surmullet.
—— surmuletus	Trigghia di solu	Striped surmullet.
Muræna catenata	Murena	Chain-striped murena.
Mytilus unguis		Claw mussel.
—— barbatus		Bearded mussel.

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Mytilus bidens	. . . . .	Double-toothed mussel.
—— hirundo	. . . . .	Swallow mussel.
Ophidium barbatum . . .	. . . . .	Bearded ophidion.
—— imberbis	. . . . .	Beardless ophidion.
Osmerus eperlanus . . .	Tarantula	Smelt.
—— saurus	Sauru	Lizard smelt, or saury.
Ostracion gibbosus . . .	. . . . .	Oyster-fish.
—— hystrix	Rizza	Trunk-fish, or porcupine.
—— mola	Camaru	Sun-fish.
Ostrea edulis	Crocchiuli	Oyster.
—— maxima	Petoncuru	Scallop.
Patella-varieties	Pateddi	Limpet.
Perca asper	. . . . .	Yellow perch.
—— cabrilla	Cabrilliu	
—— cernua	Cernia	Ruffe.
—— fluviatilis	Pisci voraci	Perch.
—— giber	. . . . .	Hunchback perch.
—— labrax	Spigula	Basse.
—— lucio perca . . .	Percia stizzata	Spotted perch, or barse.
—— Mediteranneus . .	Percia	Mediterranean perch.
—— punctata	Spinula	Thorny perch.
—— pusilla	Pisci serra	Dwarf perch.
—— sacer	. . . . .	Holy perch.
—— scriba	Pisci dettu	Learned perch.
Petromyzon fluviatilis parva	. . . . .	Lesser lamprey, or lamprey eel.
—— lampetra	. . . . .	
—— marinus	Lampredu	Lamprey.
—— mustela . .	. . . . .	
Phoca vitulina	Bove marinu	Seal.
Pholas dactylus	Dattoli di mari	Finger pholas.
—— striatus	Frutti di mari	Plaited, or channell'd pholas
Pinna marina	Lana conca	Marine nacre.
—— nobilis	Lana pinula	
—— rotundata	Lanatunna	Rounded nacre.
—— saccata	Lana pinula spinusu . .	
—— squamosa	. . . . .	Scaly nacre.
Pleuronectes flesus . . .	Pisci passera	Flounder.

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Pleuronectes hippoglossus	. . . . .	Holibut.
—— limanda	Rombo	Dab.
—— maximus	Rummulu imperiali . . .	Turbot.
—— passer	Passara picciula	Whiff.
—— platessa	. . . . .	Plaise.
—— rhombus	Rummulu	Pearl-fish.
—— solea	Linguata	Sole.
Raia altavela	Amiema	Ray, without fins.
—— aquila	Pisci Aquila	Sea-eagle.
—— batis	Raia	Skate.
—— clavata	Picara pitrusa	Thornback.
—— miraletus	. . . . .	
—— oxyrynchus . . .	Picara liscia	Sharp-nosed ray.
—— pastinaca	. . . . .	Sting ray.
—— rubus	Picara spinusa	Rough ray.
—— torpedo	Pisci Diavulu	Torpedo, or electric ray.
Salmo eperlanus	Cefalu	Smelt (Osmerus eperlanus).
—— fario	Trota	Trout.
—— saurus	. . . . .	Sea lizard.
—— thymallus	Ombrina	Grayling salmon.
—— trutta	Trota russigna	Salmon trout.
Sciæna cirrosa	Umbrina imperiali . . .	Hairy sea-hog.
—— lineata	. . . . .	Streaked sea-hog.
—— niger	Umbrina niura	Black umbra.
—— umbra	Umbrinu	Sea crow.
Scomber aculeatis . . .	. . . . .	Cross spine.
—— alalonga	Alalonga	
—— colias	Scurmu imperiali . . .	
—— ductor	. . . . .	Pilot fish.
—— glaucus	Savrella	Sea-green mackerel?
—— pelamis	Palamitu imperiali . . .	Bonito.
—— scomber (garum) .	Scurmu	Mackerel.
—— thynnus	Tunnu	Tunny.
—— trachurus	Sauru	Horse mackerel.
Scorpæna porcus	Scrofanu	Porcine scorpæna.
—— pristis	Ceppuluzzu	Sea scorpion.
—— scorpius	Mazzuni	Father Lasher.
—— scropha	Scrofana	Sow scorpion.

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Sepia loligo	Calamaru	Inck fish, or calamary
—— media	Todani grannu	Middle cuttle.
—— officinalis	Siccia	Cuttle fish.
—— octopodia . . .	Purpu	Eight-armed cuttle.
—— sepiola	Todani	Small cuttle.
Silurus electricus	. . . . .	Electrical sheath-fish.
Sparus annularis . . .	Lappanu	
—— auratus	Auradda	Lunated gilt-head.
—— boops	Vopa	
—— cantharus . . .	Ciuciastra	
—— crythinus	Pagedda	
—— dentex (variegated synodon) . .	Dentici	Sea rough—Ruff?
—— erithrinus	Luvaru	
—— mæna	Minnula	Cockerel.
—— melanurus . . .	Occhiata	
—— mormyrus . . .	Ajula imperiali	
—— pagrus	Pagru	Sea bream, or red gilt-head.
—— salpa	Scilpa	
—— sargus	Saracu	
—— saxatilis	Sparragghiuni	
—— smaris	Minula imperiali . . .	
—— sparus	Spargu	
Spondylus gædaropus . .	Ostrica russa	Oblong umbonated oyster.
Squalus acanthus	Pisci scioccu	Prickly dog-fish.
—— canicula	. . . . .	Cott fish, or spotted dog-fish.
—— carcharios	Pisci cane	White shark.
—— catulus	Rusetta	Hound fish, or lesser spotted
—— centrina	. . . . .	Chub. [dog-fish.
—— galeus	. . . . .	Tope.
—— glaucus	Lupu di mari	Blue shark.
—— lamia	Gabdolu	Wide-mouthed chub.
—— maximus	Grossu cani di mari . .	Basking shark.
—— mustellus	Pisci palummu	Smooth hound-fish
—— pristis	Sia	Saw fish.
—— spinax	Chelpu	Balance fish.
—— squatina	. . . . .	Monk fish, or angel fish.
—— stellaris	Pisci tigrinu	Spotted shark.

Latin.	Sicilian.	English.
Squalus tiburio	Magnusa	
—— zygæna	Martellu	Hammer-headed shark.
Stromateus fixtula . . .	Fiatula, or lampuga . .	Striped stromat.
Strombus gigas	Brogni	Turbo shell.
Syngnathus typhle . . .	. . . . .	Pipe fish.
—— hippocampus . .	Cavaddu santu	Sea horse.
Tellina-varieties	Arcelli	Tellina.
Tetrodon hispidus . . .	. . . . .	Sea globe.
—— mola	Pisci tammuru	Sun-fish.
Trachinus draco	Traccina	Sea dragon.
—— jugulares	Majuro ta rocca . . .	The weaver.
Trigla cataphracta . . .	. . . . .	Sea rocket, or red gurnard.
—— cuculus	Labbru russignu . . .	Red cuckow gurnard.
—— hirundo	. . . . .	Tab fish, or grey brown gur-
—— gurnardus . . .	Gurnardu	Grey gurnard. [nard.
—— lucerna	Tigiega	Lantern gurnard.
—— lyra	Triglia	Piper.
—— milvus	Taira	Kite gurnard.
—— volitans . . .	. . . . .	Flying gurnard.
Turbo clathrus . . .	Curnicchi di mari . . .	Striped-wreath.
—— terebra . . .	Curnicchiuli	Anger-wreath.
Uranoscopus scaber .	Curnicchi di mari . . .	Bearded star-gazer
Xiphias gladeus . . .	Pisci spata	Sword fish.
Zeus aper	Pisci tariolu	Red zeus.
—— faber	Aurata	John Dory. [zeus.
—— gallus	Gaddu	Silver fish, or forked-tailed

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